



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Murphy Response to UW–Madison Professor’s Inappropriate Tweets

MADISON, WI —State Representative Dave Murphy (R–Greenville) issued the following statement regarding recent inappropriate tweets by a UW–Madison professor:

“I was disappointed to see [Tweets authored by a UW–Madison professor](#) published just after 10:00 AM on a weekday telling legislators “f*** you.” Not only is this a clear violation of [UW–Madison social media guidelines](#), but it sets a particularly poor example of how to interact with others and effect real political change. While UW–Madison has issued a statement distancing themselves from the content of the tweets, it deeply concerns me that a professor, holding a position of trust and esteem, and being paid by the taxpaying people of our state, would consider it appropriate to publish it in the first place.

“I am a devout believer in the First Amendment and academic freedom. While I adamantly oppose cancel culture, I am calling on our university to do better, for the individual involved to reflect on their actions, and for all professors to rise to the high expectations placed on you by the people of Wisconsin. Professors are entrusted with developing minds and moving our state forward, as the Wisconsin Idea so eloquently established. The people of Wisconsin are already concerned that students are being indoctrinated, faculty are pushing a far left agenda during work hours, and that taxpayers are not getting their monies’ worth. Hurling profanity at political leaders across social media will do nothing but harden hearts and silence genuine political dialogue. I am not calling on the university to avoid controversial topics but instead to approach them in a way that opens minds.

“Political tension has risen to the level of violence in cities across our nation. When an educational leader at a public university fans the flames, I consider that to be irresponsible and a dereliction of duty.

“It takes years of academic rigor to become a professor. Any individual who rises to this level is clearly an accomplished person, capable of so much more than four letter diatribes on Twitter. We all have moments of weakness when our frustrations get the better of us but we need to do all we can to ensure our frustrations aren’t taken to the streets or the tweets. We must channel our energies into civil dialogue.

“In the future, instead of profane tweets, I’d welcome a phone call or even a discussion in one of your classes. As public leaders, we need to show the world that we can communicate in productive ways, despite disagreements.”

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Rep. Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) is the chair of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities and serves on the board of Free Speech For Campus, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving freedom of expression on college campuses.