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Murphy Statement on UW Censorship *UW Continues to Indoctrinate, Not Educate*

MADISON, WI – As the 2023-24 legislative session begins, State Representative Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) – a long-time advocate of restoring free speech to college campuses – has brought to light yet another example of the University of Wisconsin actively squelching the free speech rights of those they disagree with.

Last October, Young Americans for Freedom held an event on the UW campus featuring conservative speaker Matt Walsh. Walsh spoke on the topic of “What is a Woman,” which shared a name with a documentary film he had recently released.

The event sparked protests on campus by students, staff and professors. A January open records request revealed some students complained of becoming “physically sick” at the thought of a conservative speaker appearing on campus. Notably, graduate teaching assistant and law student Jesikah Leeper openly bragged about tearing down approximately 40 Walsh event posters in hopes of decreasing awareness of the event.

“If you’re paid to be in front of a classroom, as Ms. Leeper is,” said Murphy, “you have an obligation to be a positive example for students. You’re there to teach them to understand all points of view, not just the one you prefer. Tearing down someone else’s posters is an immature and unprofessional act.”

“This is another example of the University indoctrinating students, not educating them,” said Murphy. “These woke students have things backwards. In the real world putting up posters is free speech and tearing them down is censorship. In their woke world the only speech that’s free is speech they agree with and everything else is hate that must be censored and shut down.”

“Feeling ‘physically sick’ when you hear an opposing viewpoint is ridiculous, childish and sad,” Murphy continued. “Our educational system is supposed to be based on critical thinking, and our society was established on the idea of healthy and spirited debate of issues. A college campus should be a place where people go to learn how to deal with opposing points of view and criticism. If they can’t do that they might be in the wrong place.”

Murphy emphasized that with a new legislative session underway, he is more committed than ever to restoring free speech on college campuses across the state.

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