

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS



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The Oregon Association of Scholars (OAS), the state chapter of the National Association of Scholars (www.nas.org), expresses concern and disappointment at the University of Oregon's illiberal and inappropriate treatment of law professor Dr. Nancy Shurtz.

Professor Shurtz was suspended by the university pending an investigation after wearing "blackface" at a private, off-campus Halloween party. Shurtz had been protesting the absence of black males from her daughter's medical school class. Her choice of protest tactics may have been unwise given the current campus attitudes, but the university's response has been even more unwise. The university called her behavior "stupid" and "deeply offensive" and faculty, students, and staff are circulating a petition to force her to resign.

"The bullying treatment of Professor Shurtz by the university administration and community is appalling and she is owed an apology and immediate reinstatement in her position," said Dr. Bruce Gilley, President of the Oregon Association of Scholars and a Professor of Political Science at Portland State University. "This attack on Dr. Shurtz's academic freedom is a direct consequence of the environment of politically correct partisanship and the ideological narrowing of higher education in the state that needs to be changed." OAS believes that Professor Shurtz should be immediately reinstated in her position and compensated by the university for its gross mistake. It also hopes that Professor Shurtz will vigorously defend her legal rights in the case. OAS reminds university officials that they undermine the purpose of higher education when they cower before ideological enforcers on campus and bully university members into conforming with their demands.

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