

7 August 2021

Dear Friends,

We continue to see letters which have been sent to various officials at Washington and Lee. In the “Letters” section you will see three recent letters. The first is from Keith Duet, 1990 L and is addressed to President Dudley. The second is from Randy Minchew, 1984 L and is addressed to the law school development office, and the last is from Steve Van Amburgh, 1975 and is addressed to the Board of Trustees. This last letter is accompanied by a video. Certain common themes emerge from a perusal of these letters:

- Concerns about pitting individuals and groups against each other
- Efforts at the university to divide, rather than unite, the Washington and Lee community around a shared history, values, and traditions.
- Divisive rhetoric on the part of some faculty members
- Fear among some students of retribution, shaming, or intolerant behavior from faculty, administration, or fellow students

Implied in all of the above is a belief that President Dudley has stood aside and either allowed or encouraged this one-sided approach to things to develop. This comports with the experience of The Generals Redoubt, which has, on several occasions, communicated with President Dudley and other members of the administration the need for greater ideological balance on campus, but with little results.

We have also linked to three articles on critical race theory and other topics roiling college campuses these days. We do not know with certainty the degree to which critical race theory has come to permeate the classrooms of W&L. We do know that Professor Brandon Hasbrouck has taught a class in critical race theory in the law school, and we also know that Ibrahim X. Kendi, one of the key proponents of anti-racist ideology and critical race theory, was an on-line speaker at Washington and Lee during the 2020-21 school year. The first two articles which specifically deal with critical race theory were written by William A. Galston and appeared in the July 13th and July 20th editions of The Wall Street Journal. The third article is by Jay

Schalin of the Martin Center for Academic Renewal and ties critical race theory and other "woke" movements to their origins in the late 1960's and 1970's. Schalin focuses on a speech given at Columbia University in 1968 by Richard Hofstadter, well known historian and liberal activist. At that time, Hofstadter warned against anti-intellectualism and the politicization of the university. This has unfortunately become true, at least among some folks, at Washington and Lee and at other institutes of higher learning where professors are sometimes more interested in indoctrination and left leaning politics than in teaching and research. Certainly "objectivity" has become a casualty of this development as has diversity of thought and viewpoint and true freedom of speech.

As always, we invite your comments and thoughts to our email blast. We make every effort to respond individually to folks who contact us regardless of their point of view.

Neely Young

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