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Some highlights of the student demands

Some highlights of the demands made in campus protests across the United States, as compiled by the (sympathetic) site TheDemands.org.

by walterolson 4 days ago 13 Likes 14,674 Views ▾

From Guilford College:

Walter Olson
@walterolson

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"We suggest that every week a faculty member come forward & publicly admit their participation in racism..." in the college paper [Guilford]

6:01 PM - 24 Nov 2015

86
 45

From Dartmouth:


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"All profs will be req'd to be trained in not only cultural competency but also the importance of social justice in their day-to-day work."

5:53 PM - 24 Nov 2015

👤 42 ❤️ 24

From Wesleyan:

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@walterolson Follow

"An anonymous student reporting system for cases of bias, including microaggressions, perpetrated by faculty and staff" [[@wesleyan_u](#)]

6:07 PM - 24 Nov 2015

👤 23 ❤️ 11

I first noticed [TheDemands.org](#) by way of a tweet from the activist DeRay Mckesson (criticism of the demands is mine, not his):

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Via [@deray](#): [thedemands.org](#) compiles college demands from around the country. Many would kill intellectual liberty stone dead.

5:51 PM - 24 Nov 2015

👤 126 ❤️ 94

Some observers, such as FIRE, the group that defends free expression on campus, had already taken note of the site:

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MT [@pebonilla](#) By my quick count, demands at 10 of these schools would implicate [#freespeech](#). Sometimes drastically. [thedemands.org](#)

5:52 PM - 24 Nov 2015


👤 18 ❤️ 7

FIRE's Alex Morey wrote:

"Among the enumerated items on lists of demands popping up at dozens of schools—at institutions like the [University of Wyoming](#), [San Francisco State University](#), and [Amherst College](#)—demands that college authorities take steps to dissuade or even sanction community members who express disagreement with the protesters are worryingly common.

"Particularly concerning are calls for speech codes demanding punishment of constitutionally protected "[hate speech](#)," mandatory trainings requiring students to voice agreement with certain ideologies ([compelled speech](#)), and rules about what faculty cannot, or must, teach."

As I found, there was much more to discover:




Walter Olson
@walterolson

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"White professors must be discouraged from leading and teaching departments" studying colonized/enslaved people/societies [UNC Chapel Hill]

7:38 PM - 24 Nov 2015

↩️ ↻ 20 ❤️ 6



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First-years to "take & pass a course w/curriculum focused on social justice concepts, cultural relevancy, & cultural awareness." [Wyoming]

7:56 PM - 24 Nov 2015

↩️ ↻ 7 ❤️ 2



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"Incorporate into each department at least one queer studies class." [Dartmouth] thedemands.org

6:40 PM - 24 Nov 2015

↩️ ↻ 24 ❤️ 10



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"Compulsory, in-person, & regular [faculty] anti-oppression training" led by indivs w/significant experience in anti-oppression work [Brown]

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14 6



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"We DEMAND that campus police participate in the University-wide political education....Policing as an institution must be abolished." [UNC]

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10 2

From Michigan State:



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"We demand an increase in tenure-stream faculty whose research specializes in ...Black Queer Studies, Hip-Hop Studies,...Decolonial Theory."

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42 28

Duke:



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"incorporating mandatory bias, institutional racism, and anti-oppression topics into the first year curriculum." thedemands.org

5:57 PM - 24 Nov 2015

20 3

Eastern Michigan U.:



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3. We demand Black studies built into the curriculum of every major.
4. We demand Annual cultural competency for all faculty and staff

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29 7



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"The college must prioritize recruitment and retention of undocumented students." [[@GuilfordCollege](#)] [thedemands.org](#)

7:07 PM - 24 Nov 2015

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"Every Dartmouth student should be taught and made aware that the land they reside on is Abenaki homeland" espec'y at all major ceremonies

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16 6



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"All students considering initiation into any Greek letter org'n must go thru mandatory cultural intelligence & sensitivity training" [SMU]

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"mandatory programming [on] ways in which racial capitalism, settler colonialism, & cisheteropatriarchy structure our world." [Chapel Hill]

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14 4

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"Current non-compulsory [Title IX training module] does not address structural racism, queerphobia, economic violence & transphobia" [Brown]

7:22 PM - 24 Nov 2015

↩️ ↻ 4 ❤️ 2


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Eliminate university policy against "obstruction or disruption of teaching, administration, & University procedures & activ's." [Vanderbilt]

8:02 PM - 24 Nov 2015

↩️ ↻ 3 ❤️ 3

Nor would libraries escape scrutiny:

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"The library search catalog system shall use undocumented instead of 'illegal' in reference to immigrants." [Dartmouth]

6:58 PM - 24 Nov 2015

↩️ ↻ 12 ❤️ 7

TheDemands.org is periodically updated, but here is a snapshot of [what it looked like on Nov. 24](#).

There was a lot of Twitter reaction to these highlights, especially to the Guilford demand for one confession of racism each week by a faculty member:

 **Scott Lincicome**
@scottlincicome Follow

@walterolson "We suggest throwing one faculty member into a lake every week; if he floats..."

6:30 PM - 24 Nov 2015

↩️ ↻ 29 ❤️ 65



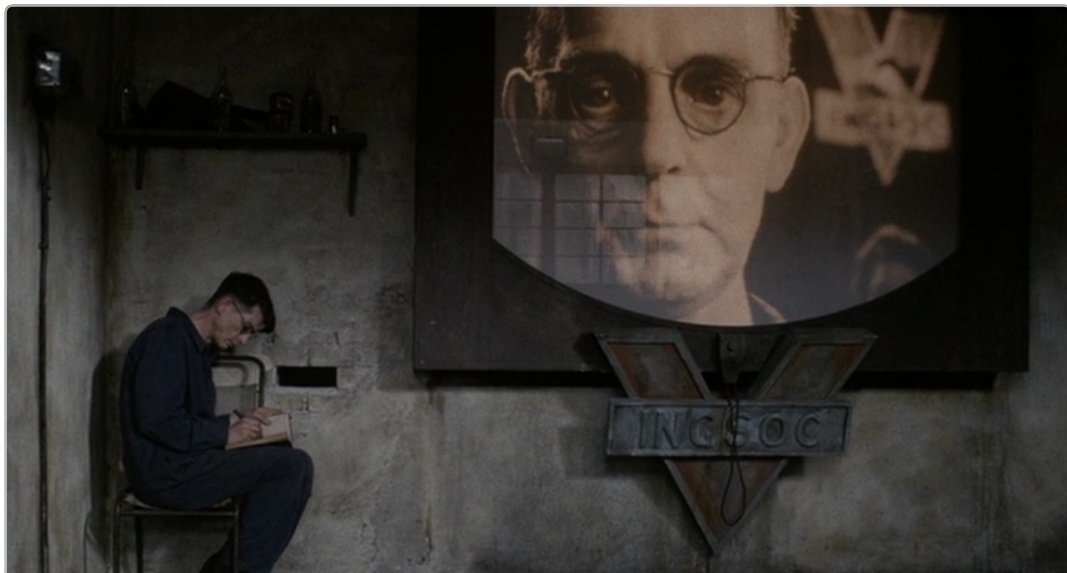
Gabriel Rossman
@GabrielRossman

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Candid photo of the faculty lounge at Guilford College
twitter.com/walterolson/st...

6:22 PM - 24 Nov 2015

  33  31



Franklin Harris
@FranklinH3000

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@walterolson Confession is the next-to-last step.

6:46 PM - 24 Nov 2015 · Athens, AL, United States

  10  11

The idea at Wesleyan for an anonymous snitch-line for denunciations of minor insensitivities also went over poorly:



Elizabeth Khan
@ElizabethKhan

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Anonymous reporting of microaggressions. What could possibly go wrong there? twitter.com/walterolson/st...

7:28 PM - 24 Nov 2015

45 86



David Frum
@davidfrum

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Anonymous denunciations are the best denunciations
twitter.com/walterolson/st...

6:08 PM - 24 Nov 2015

88 121



CvB
@RealVonBulow

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@davidfrum @walterolson @wesleyan_u Uber, but show trials

6:17 PM - 24 Nov 2015

4 3

Other reactions:



Ward Harkavy
@WHarkavy

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Also means the death of comedy. U think Lenny Bruce or Richard Pryor could perform? twitter.com/walterolson/st...

6:18 PM - 24 Nov 2015

7 5




KC Johnson
@kcjohnson9

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@walterolson Striking how many demands violate core academic freedom principles by stripping from faculty control of curriculum & hiring.

11:26 AM - 25 Nov 2015 · Scarborough, ME, United States


6 5

 **David Boaz**
@David_Boaz Follow

@walterolson I just noticed a college with a department of Appalachian studies. Would that count?

7:18 PM - 24 Nov 2015

↩️ ↻️ ❤️ 2


 **Walter Olson**
@walterolson Follow

.@David_Boaz Searching on "Appalachia" returns 0 results on thedemands.org. By contrast, "funds/funding" returns 76 results.

7:40 PM - 24 Nov 2015

↩️ ↻️ 2 ❤️ 5

In fact more jobs and a bigger and more entrenched establishment promoting diversity within the academy were among the most consistent demands:

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@walterolson Follow

"Increase funding for student organizations and offices that do intersectional work" [U. Alabama] thedemands.org

7:16 PM - 24 Nov 2015

↩️ ↻️ 2 ❤️ 2

Blogger Scott Greenfield at Simple Justice [summarized my tweets](#) and quoted Alex Morey, who had explained in her FIRE piece how the demands about microaggressions would help to bring back the worst features of so-called speech codes:

"For example, students at the University of California, Los Angeles and Boston's [Simmons College demanded](#) that administrators provide 'repercussions' for microaggressions.

"But [microaggressions](#), by their nature, are nearly always examples of constitutionally protected expression. Rules against this kind of expression, therefore, are [virtually certain to infringe](#) upon freedom of speech [in a public university context]"

One recurring comparison was to China:



红卫兵在给“黑帮分子”剃阴阳头。



Chris Economou

@ceconomou56

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[@walterolson](#) [@CHSommers](#) Public confession with head shaving by the Red Guards, Communist China, 1966.

6:45 PM - 24 Nov 2015 · Tulsa, OK, United States



38



32

It happened that I had done some tweeting about the Red Guard period just a few days earlier:



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@walterolson

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Pause for a Storify here on cultural rectification (h/t @mllebastiat) storify.com/MlleBastiat/th...

6:02 PM - 24 Nov 2015

Storify @Storify



6 3

Few commenters thought this was going to help academia with parents or others who pay the bills:



pmfh
@Guruzilla

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@walterolson The welders are going to win this in a freaking landslide.

7:33 PM - 24 Nov 2015

3 4



John Drake
@UnmutualOne

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@walterolson @CHSommers Which is why this prof is leaving academia at the end of this academic year.

7:23 PM - 24 Nov 2015

2 4