



OFFICE OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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December 6, 2016

President Gregory L. Fenves
The University of Texas at Austin
MAI 4005
Campus Mail Code: G3400

Dear President Fenves:

Enclosed, for your information, is a resolution (D 14934) from the Faculty Council Executive Committee on academic freedom and professor watch lists. The resolution was endorsed by the Faculty Council at its meeting yesterday, December 6, 2016.

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide other information concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan W. Friedman".

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

AWF:dlr

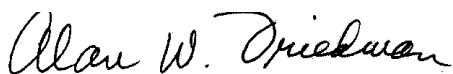
Enclosure

cc: Michelle George, Administrative Manager for Faculty Affairs, Provost's Office
Carol Longoria, Assistant Deputy to the President
Gloria Mendoza, Assistant to the Assistant Deputy to the President

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**RESOLUTION TO FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND
PROFESSOR 'WATCH LISTS'**

On behalf of the Faculty Council Executive Committee, Professor Martha G. Newman (Department of Religious Studies) submits the following resolution on academic freedom and professor watch lists. The resolution will be considered by the Faculty Council at its meeting on December 5, 2016.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**RESOLUTION TO FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND
PROFESSOR 'WATCH LISTS'**

Professorial "watch lists" have a long and ugly history in this country. According to Hans-Joerg Tiede, Senior Program Officer in the Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance of the American Association of University Professors, their purpose is generally "to intimidate individuals from speaking plainly in their classrooms or in their publications." The most recent such list, "Professor Watch list," is a project of Turning Point USA, which calls it "an aggregated list of pre-existing news stories" and encourages its readers to "Check out our full listing to see if any of your professors have made the list." It includes four of our UT Austin colleagues who have spoken out on issues of public interest.

We find such lists discouraging of academic freedom, insulting to the critical abilities of our students, and, in the case of this particular watch list, lacking evidence to support its claims.

The Faculty Council of the University of Texas at Austin affirms the following:

1. the Constitutional right of faculty members to express their views in their scholarship and other writings as freely as other US citizens;
2. the importance of our classrooms as places for the free and open exchange of ideas, where students encounter multiple viewpoints and learn to formulate, debate, and support controversial ideas.