Mississippi bans critical race theory (I do not know whether this applies to public universities). Similar bans are proliferating across many states, as you have probably seen, some getting a lot of publicity (for example, Virginia) and some not (for example, Idaho), some just for K-12 and some—with varying degrees of explicitness—impinging on colleges and universities, all the more as they have the proverbial chilling effect.

The AAUP has built a website that tracks state legislation with educational gag orders, including public hearings and testimony.

‘In a blistering opinion, a federal judge ruled that the University of Florida may not block professors from testifying against the state under the institution’s conflict-of-interest policy.’

The AAUP opposes proposed legislative restrictions on searches for Florida university presidents. Here is the AAUP Statement on Presidential Searches.

Chapman University argues that legal work (by one of the former president’s attorneys) on political matters is not appropriate for university email and does not qualify for attorney-client privilege.

Allegations of political interference in the selection of a new chancellor for the Georgia University system. This controversy is getting extended and increasing coverage in Georgia.

Our colleague, chapter past-President Leslie Struble recommended this episode of Fresh Air on “From slavery to socialism, new legislation restricts what teachers can discuss.”

From the Florida House of Representatives, video (2:13) from the debate over the bill to make searches for university presidents secretive.

Faculty organize nationally to pass a resolution “Defending Academic Freedom to Teach About Race and Gender Justice and Critical Race Theory.”

This article reviews the national acceleration of threats to academic freedom, including examples both familiar and unfamiliar (at least unfamiliar to me).

Direct reporting of one notable example (which was not familiar to me) in the article above.

A proposed bill to expand new restrictions on what K-12 teachers can teach in New Hampshire by making the restrictions apply to public universities.

Penn State AAUP chapter opposes actions that may lead to terminating tenure-track assistant professor.

New book by Matthew C. Ehrlich on academic freedom at UIUC, with February 3 event.
“In Heated Hearing, Lawyer Says Professors Who Sued U. of Florida Have ‘Unclean Hands’”: an update in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* on the suit by U of Florida professors against the university's limits on the right of faculty to provide expert testimony (available for free to those who sign up for the *Chronicle*).

**December 2021**

[Tenure at risk](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch) in South Carolina. The national AAUP has issued a [statement](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch).

[Legislative interference in Nebraska](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch) as state senators call for the resignation of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln Chancellor after his new plan for diversity and inclusion.

The University of Florida has continued to enhance its reputation for academic freedom by [denying a new program](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch) called “Critical Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in Education” because it uses the words critical and race.

In yet another development in the Sunshine State, the University of Florida trustees doubled down on [endorsing restrictions on the rights of faculty](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch) to testify as expert witnesses (an issue noted in last month’s president’s report).

**November 2021**

On the spate of laws that restrict academic freedom in the teaching of race, from the [AAUP](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch).

In a still developing story, the University of Florida committed a major violation of academic freedom by refusing to allow faculty who disagree with the governor to testify as expert witnesses, as reported [here](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch) in the *New York Times*. (If you cannot get to this October 29 article because of the paywall, you can reach it through the University Library website.) [Here](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch) is a political scientist’s response to the Florida debacle. In response to continuing pressure, the University of Florida has since [shifted its policy](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch). They now plan, as well, to review their policy, but I have seen concerns expressed that the administrators who used the policy to violate academic freedom chose the committee members who will review them.

**October 2021**

[US Rightwing Group Targets Academics](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch)

[U of Georgia’s proposed revision of tenure](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch)

[More from Georgia](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch)

And in the category of you can’t make this stuff up, the Wisconsin House of Representatives has passed a bill to ban critical race theory in K-12 (where it doesn’t exist anyway) and to restrict the vocabulary that teachers can use in the K-12 classroom. At this writing, the bill has not yet passed the Senate, and if it does, it will likely be vetoed by the governor. What starts in K-12 could spread to colleges and universities, and in some states is already doing so. This [article](https://www.aaup.org/aaup-watch) includes a list of the banned words and phrases.

**September 2021**
Florida, June 2021, bans critical race theory and restricts the teaching of American history (not clear whether this applies to public universities or only to K-12)

Florida, June 2021, surveys campuses for students’ and faculty’s political perspectives

Pennsylvania, June 2021, a bill proposed that would limit which speakers could speak and which readings could be assigned (p. 3)
https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2021&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=B&billNbr=1532&pn=1679

South Carolina members of Congress seek to eradicate critical race theory from state universities, July 2021
https://twitter.com/RepRalphNorman/status/1407080014139596804?s=20

Oklahoma, the chilling effect of anti-critical race theory legislation, July 2021
https://www.thefire.org/chilling-effect-remains-as-oklahomas-divisive-concepts-law-becomes-effective/

The Penn State faculty has voted no confidence in the university's COVID policy: https://www.centredaily.com/news/local/education/penn-state/article253466809.html

The University of Iowa imposes a partial gag order on faculty's right to address masks in the classroom. See FAQ #3: https://provost.uiowa.edu/fall-2021-faq-instructors


Nebraska, chair of the state university board and candidate for governor proposes prohibition on critical race theory, July 2021

August: The Nebraska prohibition is voted down:

May 2021

Various:

https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2021/03/23/former-professor-says-yale-fired-her-over-tweet-on-trump-
State legislators telling professors how to teach:


https://www.aaup.org/news/statement-opposes-florida-viewpoint-diversity-legislation#.YHWndOhKg2w


https://www.idahopress.com/eyeonboise/education-groups-issue-joint-statement-opposing-hb-377/article_3c170c49-38d0-5daf-ba2e-f5a189e12a7b.html

https://www.spokanepublicradio.org/post/idaho-house-votes-limit-teaching-critical-race-theory*stream/0__;!w!!DZ3fjglrl9mp5yOowYqS0lYtVd8AcFi7ovKXdtLRTa8HWvqOXOlLPPIY6MDuKPYD6XL5psQS

AAUP investigations:

https://www.aaup.org/article/state-profession-twin-crises__!!DZ3fjg!ug5j5ZLOk9VyuAC1gVgkiCeW2F1sCpa-VGgp4vcaPfgEOziStNH_gbHh200XNZaAS


Zoom censorship:

https://academeblog.org/2021/04/14/zoom-on-academic-freedom-in-higher-education/


April 2021

https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.knoe.com/2021/04/06/la-lawmaker-files-bill-making-it-potentially-illegal-to-teach-about-racism-sexism-says-bill-promotes-equality-in-education-system/__;!!DZ3fjgludITgH33iju2FLDSu8Fn3iZX1KB4A0VY8iWn7OkNyxNeGhcU3CxOlwyySuInOlgynQS

March 2021

https://littlevillagemag.com/letter-to-the-editor-top-10-ways-tenure-benefits-students-and-all-iowans/?link_id=10&can_id=8d0f86690a33dde7365409eb023f48a1&source=email-january-chapter-leader-digest-3&email_referrer=email_1087824&email_subject=february-chapter-leader-digest

https://www.forbes.com/sites/evangerstmann/2021/02/22/should-universities-end-tenure/?sh=54cd6a4b3bd6


https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-great-contraction

February 2021
