



TEXAS FACULTY ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2022

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Faculty group calls for A&M and other universities to protect and expand tenure for librarians to protect against political demands for book censorship

The Texas Faculty Association (TFA) today urged Texas A&M and other universities to protect and expand tenure for librarians. The request follows a report (see link below) that a consulting firm has recommended that the Texas A&M University System ask librarians to relinquish tenure or transfer to another academic department to keep it.

Many of A&M's librarians don't even have tenure. The faculty group also urged A&M and other universities and colleges to make tenure-track positions available to all their librarians.

"Tenure is an important protection for academic freedom, which is under political attack by some Texas leaders," TFA President Pat Heintzelman said. "And tenure has become increasingly important for librarians, who are being targeted throughout Texas by right-wing ideologues seeking to ban books promoting the growing diversity of our state."

"A library is no place for censorship, and a librarian's job is to protect and promote freedom of expression and provide students access to materials representing all cultures and viewpoints. That is a critical part of the education offered by universities," Heintzelman added. "Librarians need to be protected from harassment and the potential loss of their jobs for simply doing their jobs."

The growing political review and ban of books has cost at least one public librarian (in Llano County) her job for refusing directives to censor books in a county library.

Heintzelman noted that the quality of A&M's library services also will suffer if experienced librarians lose tenure and are driven away. That loss, in turn, will have a negative impact on the quality of classroom performances, students' grades and university research.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/05/16/texas-am-considers-making-sweeping-changes-library>