

Suspended for Dissent

March 9, 2021

Don't state the "wrong" opinion while studying at SUNY-Geneseo.

That is, if you want smoothly to sail through your academic career.

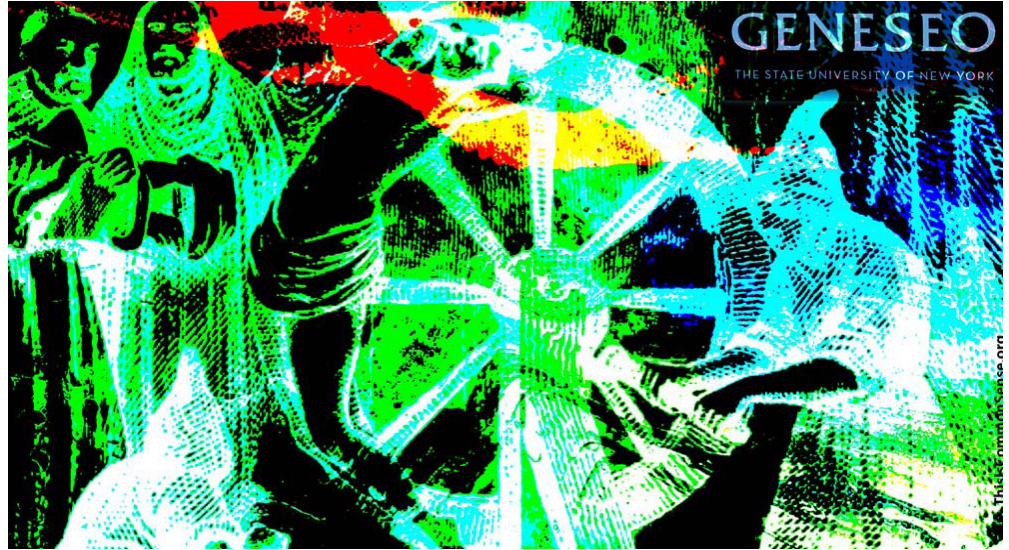
Owen Stevens violated the school's "inclusivity" creed, according to which "a diverse campus community [is] marked by mutual respect for the unique talents and contributions of each individual."

Would-be future teachers like Stevens, the university contends, must respect "all forms" of gender identity. But he has argued publicly that there are only two sexes or genders (male, female).

Regardless of one's views of transgender contentions, though, Americans should judge a policy of forcing people to salute certain government- (or administrator-) approved conclusions *intolerable*.

"A man is not a woman and a woman is not a man," said Stevens in one un-inclusive Instagram video. "The biology is clear."

So, faster than we have time to remember that



"academic freedom" was once a hallowed standard of university conduct, he was suspended from the field teaching programs that are a requirement for all education students at the school. Stevens has refused to cooperate with the school's plan to rehabilitate him.

The toleration and respect promoted by SUNY-Geneseo apparently does not include tolerating and respecting the right of others to express opinions about politics, society, and biology with which a university censor might disagree.

Of course, what constitutes "official" acceptable doctrine keeps changing. One can never know which once obviously untenable claims — about biology or anything else — will suddenly be upgraded to sacred dogma by persons with the power to penalize disagreement.

Regardless of one's views of transgender contentions, though, Americans should judge a policy of forcing people to salute certain government- (or administrator-) approved conclusions *intolerable*.

It's the school administrators responsible for suspending Stevens who should be suspended — or fired — for their conduct.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.