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## Congress Investigates Intellectual Diversity

*Georgetown Gets 'Red Light' Rating on Free Speech From Watchdog Group*

**By Drew Johnson-Skinner**

Hoya Staff Writer

Conservative senators said that free speech and academic integrity are under attack on college campuses at a hearing Wednesday.

Republican members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions were joined by four witnesses from the academic community in blaming liberal professors and administrators for a lack of intellectual diversity and freedom at universities around the country.

"All too often all the discussion and thought goes only one way," Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) said.

Greg Lukianoff, legal director of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, told the committee that speech policies and free-speech zones, like Georgetown's Red Square, are violations of students' First Amendment rights.

FIRE has given Georgetown a "red light," its worst rating, indicating that the university has "at least one policy that both clearly and substantially restricts freedom of speech."

The organization's Web site points to portions of Georgetown's Student Code of Conduct that lists "incivility with university official" as Category A and Category B offenses. The Web site also criticizes sections of the university's speech policy.

Todd Olson, interim vice president for student affairs, said Georgetown's Speech and Expression Policy is a model for the promotion of free speech on college campuses.

"Our policies and practices ... are very much in alignment with the constitutional freedoms we all value," he said.

Stanley Rothman, a professor at Smith College, told the committee that in a survey he conducted in 1999, 72 percent of American professors described their political ideology as "left," while 15 percent said they were "right."

Over the past four years, Georgetown employees gave \$155,635 in federal campaign contributions to Democratic candidates or groups, with \$42,000 going to Republicans and \$1,750 to third-party candidates, according to data compiled by THE HOYA from the Center for Responsive Politics and the Federal Election Commission.

Federal donors are required to report identifying information, including their

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employer and occupation, on all contributions over \$200. Money donated after Sept. 30, 2003 has not yet been reported to the FEC.

"Georgetown has people from all sides of the political spectrum," government professor Anthony Arend, vice president of the faculty senate, said.

Citing appearances on campus by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia (C '57), as well as President Clinton (SFS '68), Arend said, "From the president on down, we make an effort to see that all views are represented on campus."

Last week, Rep. Jack Kingston (R-Ga.) introduced a bill in the House that urges colleges to diversify their faculty, curricula, reading lists and campus speakers. He said that most students go through college without having a class taught by a conservative.

Scott Fleming (SFS '72), assistant to the president for federal relations, said that he was relieved that the senators at the hearing opposed dealing with academic diversity through legislation. Fleming also said the allegations raised by the committee do not apply to Georgetown.

"Georgetown's campus is most definitely receptive to diverse views," Fleming said. "Jeane Kirkpatrick and Madeline Albright are classic examples of two people, in the same field, with different views."

Albright served as secretary of state in President Clinton's administration and is now a Georgetown professor. Kirkpatrick was President Reagan's ambassador to the U.N. and teaches a course at Georgetown.

Fleming also pointed to Republican speakers on campus sponsored by the Office of Federal Relations, including Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski (COL '80) and an upcoming speech by Sen. Pete Domenici (N.M).

"I don't feel a bias on our campus," Diana Lee (COL '04) said. "Personally, I've experienced a lot of even-handedness from our administration."

David Childs (SFS '04) said he can usually tell the political views of his professors and has heard of students tailoring their in-class comments or essays to fit with a professor's opinion.

Lily Badger (COL '05) understands the pressures to adjust academic work. "I think in a lot of classes, you feel you should write what [professors] think."

Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), chairman of the Senate HELP Committee, said that he plans on holding further hearings addressing intellectual diversity on college campuses. He said he hopes to question university accrediting agencies next in order to ensure they are not exercising political bias in the accreditation process.

