

Laurier University owes Canadians an explanation

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The story of Wilfrid Laurier University faculty and HR staff bullying a student and teaching assistant for daring to expose students to critical thinking isn't a bad as we were first led to believe.

It's worse.

Audio of Lindsay Shepherd's meeting with her supervisor Nathan Rambukkana, another professor and an HR staffer was [posted online by Global News](#) over the weekend and nakedly revealed the ruthless, ideologically driven hypocrisy that's infecting university campuses across this country. Lindsay Shepherd, a communications studies teaching assistant, was hauled into the meeting after showing her students a short clip from a TV Ontario program featuring University of Toronto Professor Jordan Peterson debating sexual diversity studies instructor Nicholas Matte in part about gender pronouns, something Shepherd's class that week was studying.

During her meeting with Wilfrid Laurier faculty and HR, Shepherd is brought to tears by their bullying words and tone and tries to explain all she did was expose her class to a debate being held in real life, between real people.

It made sense, Shepherd argued, to play a few minutes of Peterson debating another instructor. It makes sense to us, as well. And if not a clip of Peterson himself talking, some other figure debating the issue.

Not so, Rambukkana and his colleagues argued. “These types of arguments are counter to the Canadian Human Rights Code,” Shepherd is told in the meeting, which she secretly taped.

What thunderous claptrap.

Canada’s Constitution protects the right of Canadians to free speech. That includes the right to make arguments others disagree with.

Universities ought to be the proving ground for such discussion and debate. Shamefully, students too often are brow-beaten by progressive profs hell-bent on peddling their own version of right-thinking.

Wilfrid Laurier University, in response to the public outcry, announced a task force to look into the matter. Yet so far, they’ve offered no words of reassurance that they believe Shepherd’s treatment was wrong and unfair or that they will work to prevent similar episodes in future.

This is troubling. Students, families and taxpayers support post-secondary education. Professors are paid to teach students to think critically, not to teach them what to think.

The latter's called indoctrination, not education.

Laurier needs to decide it's actual role, and what it stands for.