



UC Center Sacramento

“What (If Anything) Is Wrong With Requiring Diversity Statements at Public Universities?”

Wednesday, May 5rd

12:00 - 1:00pm

In light of the community concerns regarding COVID-19, this talk will be given as a webinar. The link will be provided on May 4th to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 3rd at uccs.ucdavis.edu.

Universities increasingly ask professors to describe their contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion when they apply for jobs or seek tenure or promotion. But as diversity statements have become more widely required, they have also attracted more criticism—much of it directed at the University of California. Arguments first raised in blog posts and op-eds have now made their way to faculty-wide votes and potential lawsuits. Critics say that UC and other universities are engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination, violating their faculty’s academic freedom, and imposing political litmus tests not unlike the loyalty oaths struck down during the Cold War era. These are serious charges, but are they true? A constitutional law scholar and current chair of UC’s Committee on Academic Freedom, Professor Soucek will offer a framework to help answer that question.



Dr. Brian Soucek is Professor of Law and Chancellor’s Fellow at UC Davis School of Law, where he teaches and writes about constitutional law, discrimination, civil procedure, and asylum. Professor Soucek is the current Chair of the University of California’s system-wide faculty Committee on Academic Freedom and, in 2020-2021, a Fellow at UC’s National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement. Professor Soucek received his PhD in Philosophy from Columbia University and his JD from Yale Law School.

For questions contact Brooke Miller-Jacobs at (916) 445-5161 or bmmillerjacobs@ucdavis.edu

The views and opinions expressed during this lecture are those of the speaker and do not necessarily represent the views of UCCS.