

20 April 2026

Chancellor Brandon Creighton
Texas Tech University
System Box 4203
Lubbock, TX 79409

Dear Chancellor Creighton,

I write to you on behalf of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, established in 1969. We are the foremost learned society in the United States for the study of all aspects of the eighteenth century. We just completed our annual meeting in Philadelphia on this 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, where we recommitted ourselves to the highest standards of scholarship and teaching as a matter of national importance. With this experience bolstering our sense of the urgency of excellent education at this crucial moment in history, our Board and members urge you to respect the autonomy of faculty members in determining curriculum as a matter of academic freedom and freedom of speech, both of which are fundamental to a healthy democracy.

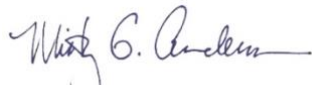
ASECS has a particular interest in the accurate and vibrant teaching of the long eighteenth century as a period crucial to understanding our own American experiment. We support our members in their work at universities across the country, where they are engaging the current generation in understanding our national and transnational pasts. Such teaching meets the ideals of your mission statement, which centers your commitment to "preparing learners to be ethical leaders for a diverse and globally competitive workforce." ASECS urges Texas Tech to abide by its own mission statement and the standards of higher education to remain in the larger fellowship of colleges and universities that respect the principle of freedom of academic inquiry, the importance of which is only made clearer in challenging political times.

We believe that the American Association of University Professors' [1940 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure](#) is a guide to the future success of the American university system, which has long led the modern world in the development of new knowledge and the preservation of our past. The policy of restrictions on subject matter content that Texas Tech has implemented puts you outside the norms and standards of higher education in the United States and would remove from faculty members the ability to focus on the needs of their students in relation to curriculum and degree structure. It also runs counter to the stewardship of knowledge that produces both an accurate historical record and an engaged citizenry who are aware of their history.

University curricula depend on the academic freedom of faculty members. The freedom to teach within one's area of expertise is crucial to the integrity of Texas Tech University's mission and to a future in which accurate information and critical thinking are safeguards to our country's highest values.

We ask Texas Tech to return to a reasonable and robust defense of policies on academic freedom, especially in matters of faculty control of the curriculum. If you do, the excellent educators in your state will be able to deliver the best education possible to your students.

On behalf of the ASECS Board and Membership,



Misty G. Anderson
ASECS President, 2025-26



president@asecs.org



asecsoffice@asecs.org



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