



CAMPUS REPORT

THE LAST DOMINO FALLS AS COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT RESIGNS

By Don Irvine

Less than three weeks before classes were set to begin, Columbia University President Minouche Shafik stepped down after withstanding months of pressure from how she dealt with Pro-Hamas demonstrations on campus during the Spring semester.

Shafik lasted longer than her colleagues at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, who resigned shortly after their disastrous testimony before Congress in December about the escalating antisemitic protests on their campuses.

In her resignation letter, Shafik said that she “tried to navigate a path that upholds academic principles and treats everyone with fairness and compassion. It has been distressing—for the community, for me as president and on a personal level—to find myself, colleagues, and students the subject of threats and abuse.”

Shafik, who holds dual U.S. and British citizenship, will be heading across the pond to work with the UK’s Foreign Secretary “to chair a review of the government’s

approach to international development and how to improve capability,” according to her letter. This differs from Harvard’s former president Claudine Gay and UPenn’s Liz Magill who remained at their respective institutions as members of the faculty, much to the consternation of many donors.

The beginning of the end for Shafik came when protesters stormed Hamilton Hall in Vietnam War-era fashion, taking control of the building after she refused to

cave to their demands to divest from Israel. This was yet another attempt by the left to revive the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) move-

ment which has fallen flat in recent years, and to her credit, Shafik wasn’t buying it.

But the problem was that from the time that the protesters had barricaded themselves in Hamilton Hall, she was already behind on the situation. Rather than call in the police at the outset, she tried to negotiate with the protesters until finally calling in the NYPD some 20 hours after the occupation began. By that time, the damage had been done as the protesters had broken

Her efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement ... were rebuffed, despite her attempts.



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windows and furniture, causing physical damage. Additionally, three university employees experienced mental anguish after being trapped inside the building when the protesters entered the building with the aid of someone who had hidden themselves inside. By calling in the NYPD, and the subsequent arrests of 46 protesters, she made herself a lightning rod for the pro-Hamas students and faculty who felt that Shafik’s actions violated their free speech rights. The pro-Hamas protesters, which were comprised of

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The Reed Irvine Legacy Society

The Reed Irvine Legacy Society was established in 2005 to honor my father as the founder of Accuracy in Media and Accuracy in Academia for his pioneering work in the fields of media criticism, exposing liberal bias in academia and investigative journalism.

My father's courage in single-handedly exposing the political bias in our nation's colleges and universities sparked a revolution in America to fight the plague that is "political correctness" that continues today. Please help honor his vision that made AIA such a significant force for change by including Accuracy in Academia in your will.

As a charter member of the Reed Irvine Legacy Society you can join me and other concerned citizens to help ensure that Accuracy in Academia will be able to continue to expose the left-ist bias and indoctrination of students for generations to come.

I have seen first hand how this indoctrination has spread from academia into the K-12 schools where liberal teachers are trying to create a legion of future liberal and left-wing activists. Your gift will help AIA stop this before it's too late.

Please contact me at don.irvine@academia.org for information on how to make a bequest to AIA.

Sincerely,
Don Irvine
Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

September 2024

As the summer draws to a close, students of all ages are preparing to return to school. It will also mark the start of what I will call the fall protest season on college and university campuses.

During the summer, the pro-Hamas protesters returned home, took internships or jobs, and went on vacation. Now, as the new semester begins, they are ready to resume their activities, with the Middle East situation largely unchanged and both sides entrenched in a protracted battle for Israel and its surrounding areas.

University administrators are promising tougher policies for protesters, but I'm skeptical they'll follow through. Many of these protesters are left-wing activists rather than students, and they plan to disrupt campuses even more than they did last spring. They will be starting their actions earlier this fall.

Schools that faced significant issues last spring should consider requesting assistance from local police as students return, to act as a deterrent and prevent problems from escalating. Prompt and decisive action by administrators could help minimize the chaos this time around.

On a personal note, this month marks a very difficult anniversary for my family. It was one year ago on September 24th that our oldest son Spencer passed away at age 35 from pancreatic cancer. Spencer was not only a loving husband and son, but was the linchpin to much of what AIA has been doing for the last several years and his absence is sorely missed in so many ways.

Thank you for your support not just to my family, but to AIA as we have tried to honor his legacy and that of my father Reed who founded AIA in 1985 as we march towards our 40th anniversary.

Respectfully,
Don Irvine



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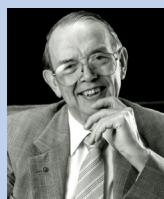
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Editor: Meg Irvine

P.O. Box 5647
Derwood, MD 20855

202-465-8681
info@academia.org

Please remember AIA in your will.



"I am not worried about the media destroying our society by telling the truth. I am worried about their doing so by telling lies, distorting the truth, suppressing vital information and eroding our values."

- **REED IRVINE**
Founder and Chairman
Accuracy in Media, 1922-2004



"May we choose good leaders and may their actions reflect on us. We have the ability in this country to choose good men and women, so let's do that."

- **SPENCER IRVINE**
Writer and Editor
Accuracy in Media, Accuracy in Academia, 1988-2023

both students and non-students, do not distinguish between free speech and violence and feel that destroying property and harassing Jewish students fall under those rights.

Columbia University members of the American Association of University Professors, which is loaded with liberal academics, drafted a censure motion alleging Shafik violated “the fundamental requirements of academic freedom” and launched an “unprecedented assault on students’ rights.” Her efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the protesters were rebuffed, despite her attempts.

Even though classes were out of session, except for those taking summer courses, the controversy didn’t cool down completely as Shafik and the Columbia Univer-

sity administration hoped. Shafik’s departure comes a week after the resignation of three Columbia University deans, Susan Chang-Kim, Cristen Kromm, and Matthew Patashnick, who were permanently removed from their posts by Shafik. She stated that they had engaged in “very troubling” text messages that “touched on antisemitic tropes,” relating to their actions in a May 31 panel discussion about Jewish life at an alumni event.

While Shafik’s resignation isn’t shocking, the timing is surprising, as she is leaving just before the fall semester begins. This leaves her successor with little time to acclimate to the new role and formulate a strategy for dealing with the likely return of protesters, as the war in Gaza continues unabated. The

situation has become an even bigger flashpoint in the presidential elections, with newly minted Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris trying to balance her desire for a peace agreement without losing the traditional Democratic Jewish support at the polls, as well as the youth vote, which has been turning away from the Democrats under the Biden administration.

All indications are that student activists and outside agitators are ready to return to campus as soon as classes resume. This creates more headaches for universities and colleges across America as they try to balance true free speech rights against those that only seek to agitate and wreak havoc. •

Trump Unveils Agenda 47 to Take Back Education from the Left

By AIA Staff

We have edited the 10 principles from the Trump campaign website due to space considerations.

Restoring Parental Rights

President Trump will turn back the tide of left-wing indoctrination and once again respect the fundamental right of parents to control the education, healthcare, and moral formation of their children.

President Trump supports parents’ rights to know what their children are being taught, communicate concerns with educators, protect their children’s privacy, be informed of academic changes and school violence, review professional development materials, be notified of guest speakers, inspect school

budgets, and be aware of efforts to address bullying or mental health. He also advocates for parental consent on student health surveys, the right to opt out of school healthcare, and immediate notification if a school employee attempts to change a child’s name, pronouns, or gender understanding.

President Trump will reverse Joe Biden’s barbaric “gender-affirming care” policies and issue an executive order directing all federal agencies, including the Department of Education, to end programs promoting sex and gender transition at any age.

President Trump will declare any hospital or healthcare provider that participates in the chemical or physical mutilation of minor youth will no longer meet federal health and safety standards for Medicaid and Medicare.

President Trump will also notify states and school districts that teachers or school officials suggesting to a child that they may be trapped in the wrong body will face severe consequences, including potential civil rights violations and loss of federal funding

President Trump will promote positive education about the nuclear family, the roles of mothers and fathers, and celebrating rather than erasing the things that make men and women different and unique.

President Trump will ask Congress to pass a bill establishing that the only genders recognized by the United States government are male and female—and they are determined at birth.

President Trump will also

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make clear that Title Nine prohibits men from participating in women's sports.

Great Principals and Great Teachers

Great schools need great teachers, and great teachers need great principals. President Trump will encourage parents and school boards to hire and reward strong principals and teachers while removing poor performers. He also supports the direct election of school principals by parents, giving them the power to replace those who don't meet high standards.

Knowledge and Skills, Not CRT and Gender Indoctrination

President Trump will remove Critical Race Theory, transgender ideology, and left-wing indoctrination from our schools and refocus on reading, writing, and arithmetic, ensuring that America's young people gain the knowledge and skills needed for a successful career.

President Trump will remove the left's "equity" agenda from our classrooms and restore a focus on excellence. On his first day back in office, he will revoke Joe Biden's executive order establishing an "equity" enforcement squad and will urge Congress to create a restitution fund for Americans unjustly discriminated against by these policies.

Love of Country

President Trump will continue to advocate for patriotic education in America's schools. Despite America's founding principles of liberty and equality guiding the nation through its most challenging times—abolishing slavery, defeating fascism and communism, advancing

civil rights, and expanding prosperity—poor scholarship over decades has vilified our Founders and taught many young people to hate their own country.

Freedom to Pray

President Trump will fiercely protect the First Amendment right to pray in public schools and ensure that the fundamental right to the Free Exercise of Religion does not end in the classroom.

When he is back in office, President Trump will again be a champion for the fundamental right to pray in school.

Safe, Secure, and Drug-Free

Greatness in the classroom requires safety. President Trump will overhaul federal school discipline standards to remove disruptive students from classrooms and place them in reform schools or correctional facilities. He will support immediate expulsion for any student who harms a teacher or peer.

President Trump will direct the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to convene an independent panel to investigate whether transgender hormone treatments and ideology increase the risk of extreme depression, aggression, and violence. He will also look at whether common psychiatric drugs, as well as genetically engineered cannabis and other narcotics, are causing psychotic breaks.

President Trump will encourage local school districts to enforce a zero-tolerance policy for illegal drug use or possession, with immediate suspension or expulsion.

Universal School Choice

President Trump supports universal school choice so that par-

ents can send their children to the public, private, or religious school that best suits their needs, their goals, and their values.

Project-Based Learning

America's students are more successful, more engaged, and more prepared when their education includes hands-on projects that mirror real-world work. President Trump will support project-based learning in the classroom to better prepare students for successful careers.

Internships and Work Experiences

For many students, the path to a great job is a great internship or part-time work. For that reason, President Trump will implement funding preferences for schools that actively work to help students secure internships, part-time work, and summer jobs that will set them on the path to long and fulfilling careers.

Jobs and Career Counseling

President Trump will implement funding preferences for schools with job and career counselors on-hand—because getting a great job best suited to your God-given talents should be a primary goal of education. •

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