

Serving the communities of Butler • Germantown • Lannon • Menomonee Falls

Chancellor James C Schmidt
UW – Eau Claire
Schofield Hall 204
105 Garfield Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54704

April 7, 2025

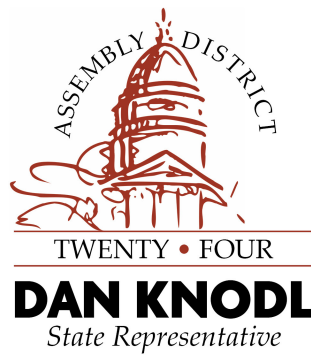
Chancellor Schmidt,

I am writing to express my full support for the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire College Republicans and to condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the abhorrent behavior of UWEC faculty member and English Department Chair José Felipe Alvergue on Election Day, April 1, 2025.

On the morning of our state's Spring Election, Professor Alvergue approached the College Republicans' informational booth, where students were peacefully and respectfully promoting Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate Brad Schimel and State Superintendent candidate Brittany Kinser. According to multiple witnesses, Professor Alvergue declared, "The time for this is over," before violently overturning the table and walking away. This disturbing act of political aggression, carried out by a university employee against students engaging in constitutionally protected speech, represents a flagrant violation of the values that should define any institution of higher learning, especially those of a public university in the state of Wisconsin system.

The University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire has an obligation to foster an environment in which all students, regardless of political affiliation, feel safe and supported in expressing their views. When a professor physically disrupts a student organization's lawful and peaceful activity based solely on political disagreement, the university must respond decisively. The failure to hold Professor Alvergue accountable sends a chilling message: that conservative voices are not only unwelcome but subject to open hostility and intimidation.

I stand with the UW-Eau Claire College Republicans in calling for further disciplinary action, including the termination of Professor Alvergue's employment. Anything less



Serving the communities of Butler • Germantown • Lannon • Menomonee Falls

constitutes a dangerous precedent—one that undermines the principles of academic integrity, viewpoint diversity, and free expression.

It is time for the university to demonstrate its commitment to fairness and to make clear that political violence, regardless of the target or source, will not be tolerated on its campus. Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly look forward to prompt and decisive action from the university in this matter.

Very Respectfully,

Representative Dan Knodl
24th Assembly District
Wisconsin State Legislature
(608) 237-9124
Rep.Knodl@legis.wisconsin.gov