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Texas State University Fires Beloved Professor Without Due Process for Speaking as a Private Citizen

SAN MARCOS, Texas – The **Texas State Employees Union CWA Local 6186 (TSEU)** condemns the abrupt termination of **Dr. Tom Alter**, a respected historian, educator, and active member of the Texas State University community, for statements he made as a private citizen.

Without a hearing or any meaningful opportunity to respond, university administrators under the leadership of **President Kelly Damphousse** removed **Dr. Alter** from his position in response to an online smear campaign led by **Karlyn Borysenko**.

Borysenko has publicly called for [embracing fascism](#), stated that Jewish people [chose to die in the Holocaust](#), and refers to herself as an “[anti-communist cult leader](#).” She recorded a talk that **Dr. Alter** gave at the Revolutionary Socialism Conference on Sunday, Sept. 7 and began [calling for his firing](#) on social media on Monday, Sept. 8. [The transcript of the talk can be viewed here.](#)

“This is exactly what the First Amendment protects against,” **said TSEU President Ilesa Daniels Ross**. “No public employee should fear losing their job because they expressed personal views outside of work. Texas State University’s decision sends a chilling message to every faculty member, staff member, and student: your job can be taken away if political actors don’t like what you say on your own time.”

Dr. Alter, a beloved professor known for his scholarship in U.S. labor and social movement history, received no due process. He gave the talk in question at a conference on Sunday, Sept. 7 and learned that he had been terminated in a [public statement](#) from **Texas State University President Kelly Damphousse** on Wednesday, Sept. 10.

TSEU calls on Texas State University to:

1. Reinstate Dr. Alter immediately.
2. Publicly affirm the constitutional right of all employees to speak as private citizens without retaliation.

3. Establish clear policies guaranteeing due process before any termination related to off-duty expression.

“This isn’t just about one professor,” **added Daniels Ross**. “It’s about protecting every Texan’s freedom to speak their mind without government interference. If a university president can cave to an extremist YouTuber today, what stops the next attack on free expression tomorrow?”

TSEU urges students, faculty, and community members to stand together and demand that Texas State University live up to its First Amendment obligations.

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The Texas State Employees Union (TSEU) is a near 10,000 strong member organization of and for state employees and retirees. Our members live in every part of the state, and work in nearly every state agency and state university.