



Fw: AAUP Guidance Letter on Congressional requests for information about Professor Sheila Bedi

From Jacqueline Stevens <jacqueline-stevens@northwestern.edu>
Date Thu 4/10/2025 2:13 PM
To Sasha Draeger-Mazer <s.draeger-mazer@dailynorthwestern.com>

 1 attachment (274 KB)

2025.04.09 - AAUP Letter to Northwestern.pdf;

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From: Jacqueline Stevens <jacqueline-stevens@northwestern.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 9:18 AM
To: Stephanie Mills Graham
Cc: Michael H Schill; Julie Allen; Kathleen Hagerty; Sumit Dhar; Jill Hardin Wilson; Rebecca Zorach; Mark Vinzenz Alznauer; Anne Zald; glakier@uchicago.edu; vdubal@aaup.org; Sheila A Bedi; Jorge F Coronado; Lauren K Stokes; Samuel Weber; Linda Gates
Subject: AAUP Guidance Letter on Congressional requests for information about Professor Sheila Bedi

Dear Ms. Graham,

I write to share with you a letter AAUP legal counsel drafted yesterday for the specific purpose of addressing the Congressional demands for information about Professor Sheila Bedi and her clinic work at the law school. It provides numerous legal grounds and copious case law to shore up resisting any of the demands for information Republicans are now requesting. Just around the time I received this letter I read with alarm in the New York Times a statement by a Northwestern public affairs officer indicating that Northwestern at present will be complying with these unlawful requests. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/09/nyregion/columbia-northwestern-gaza-congress.html> This tracks Peter Barris's statement last night to Faculty Senate, after he was presented with numerous letters from concerned law school faculty, indicating that NU was complying with requests for information to avoid receiving a subpoena.

Does anyone really believe that in matters about which Mr. Barris has his own concerns at stake he willy nilly sends his own confidential information to any government body that requests this of him? In my day job running the Deportation Research Clinic and spending extensive time litigating against the withholding of information Congress obligates firms with government contracts to release, I know firms run by Barris and others on the Northwestern board would never bend over like this simply on the basis of a mere request and absent a court order, much

less any legal grounds.

In his remarks to the FS, Mr. Barris claimed a commitment to shared governance. The overwhelming sense of the faculty representatives at that meeting was for NU to litigate all unlawful requests, especially those in the letter on Professor Bedi's legal work.

For reasons of academic freedom, not to mention the rule of law, and on behalf of our chapter of the AAUP, I strongly urge you to recalibrate your course.

Thank you for your consideration of these points and especially those made by my AAUP colleagues Professor Genevieve Lakier and Professor Veenal Dubal.

Jackie Stevens

President

NU AAUP

Jacqueline Stevens

Professor

Political Science

Founding Director, Deportation Research Clinic

Buffett Institute for Global Affairs

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<https://polisci.northwestern.edu/people/core-faculty/jacqueline-stevens.html>

<https://deportation-research.buffett.northwestern.edu/>

"Don't deter the huddled masses. Deter private prison kleptocrats who profit off them," News Tribune - McClatchy, July 11, 2024, <https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/article289849389.html#storylink=cpy>

"Solidarities of Citizenship," Frontiers of Political Science, 2023 <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpos.2023.1141774/full>