

TEMPLE ASSOCIATION OF  
**T A U P**  
UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONALS  
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## Watchlist and academic freedom

Happy New Year! We hope that you are enjoying your Winter Breaks. But our work as academic professionals continues, and that includes defending academic freedom.

Many of you have probably heard about the Professor Watchlist, a site supposedly founded “to expose and document college professors who discriminate against conservative students and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom.” We in TAUP believe classrooms must be places for open discussion and vigorous debate, but it’s clear that the Professor Watchlist is merely the latest in a long line of attempts to intimidate faculty into silence. Among those singled out are two of our own, Prof. Sara Goldrick-Rab (Policy, Organizational and Leadership Studies, College of Education, & Sociology, CLA) and Prof. Joe Schwartz (Political Science, CLA).

This must not be tolerated, especially at a time when we have good cause to believe that so many of our rights are at stake. At a time like this, it is particularly important that faculty be free to speak and to write according to the protections and boundaries provided by [academic freedom](#). Academic freedom is in the [Preamble](#) to our contract for a reason.

As members of TAUP, there are many things we can do to ensure that academic freedom is respected at Temple. Here are a few:

1. If you are not sure what academic freedom means, and it has some complex elements, you may wish to consult good sources on it; here is a useful [starting point](#).
2. If you believe that you or a colleague’s academic freedom has been violated, please contact TAUP. A good place to start are the members of our new [Constituency Councils](#). You are also free to contact the [TAUP office staff](#) or the officers, [Art Hochner](#) (President), [Steve Newman](#) (Vice President), and [Norma Corrales-Martin](#) (Treasurer).
3. Consider signing this [petition](#) to express solidarity with those who have been singled out by this vile list by asking to be included on it. There has been some debate on this since the Watchlist will not add a faculty member just because she or he asks to be on it; on the other hand, actually getting on such a list should not be taken lightly since it can lead to various sorts of harassment. But many have still found it a symbolic gesture worth making.

TAUP is also reaching out to Temple Student Government as one way of alerting out students to this vital issue. If you have other ideas about how to protect academic freedom at Temple, please let us know by contacting one of the people listed above.

If we stand together against those who would seek to silence us, we will emerge with the strength we need to work successfully for what we believe. This is the Temple we want and will fight to preserve.

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