

From: [WordPress Admin](#)
To: [Statutory Complaints](#)
Subject: New submission from Ombudsman Statutory Complaint
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 9:07:08 AM

Complainant Status

Student

Name of Texas Institution of Higher Education

Stephen F. Austin State University

Statutory Provision

TEC 51.3525 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives

Course instruction; TEC Section 51.3525(d)

Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone

[REDACTED]

Same or similar allegations

No

Detailed information

Please see attached correspondence and written complaint.

Please copy Tanner Franklin and Briscoe Cain, [REDACTED] attorneys, on all correspondence.

Tanner Franklin
(936) 560-3300
tanner@thegoodlawyer.com

Briscoe Cain
briscoe@attorneybriscoecain.com

Additional Documentation

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Simmons:

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a [REDACTED] of Stephen F. Austin State University ("SFA") in Nacogdoches, Texas. [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am submitting a formal complaint with your office because I believe that SFA is running its [REDACTED] program as a shadow D.E.I. program in violation of state law. I also believe that that SFA, and in particular employees within the [REDACTED] program, also discriminate against conservatives [REDACTED] and those that they perceive do not support D.E.I. or leftist political beliefs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Below is a summary of what has taken place and what I experienced while working in the [REDACTED] and as a student at SFA.

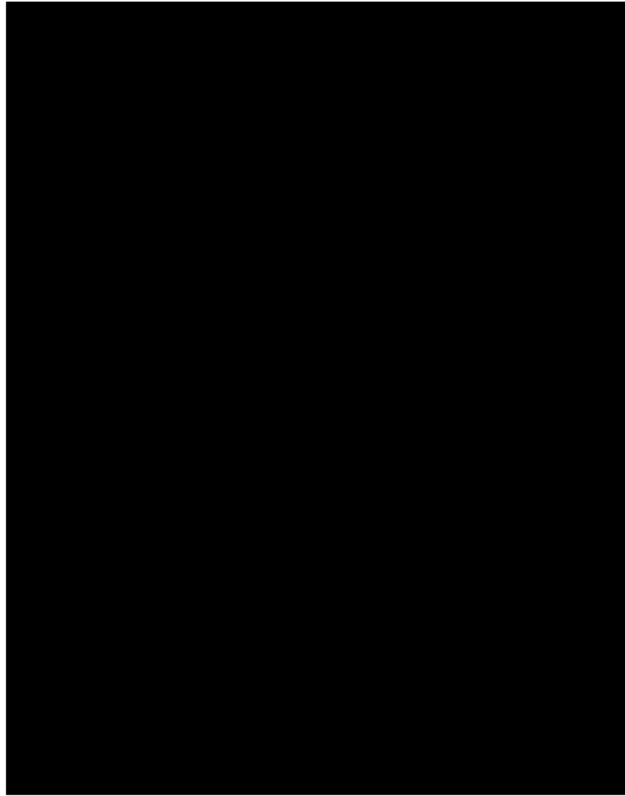
[REDACTED] censors my call for a viewpoint neutral political speech policy.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] seeking to restrict political speech following Charlie Kirk's assassination. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

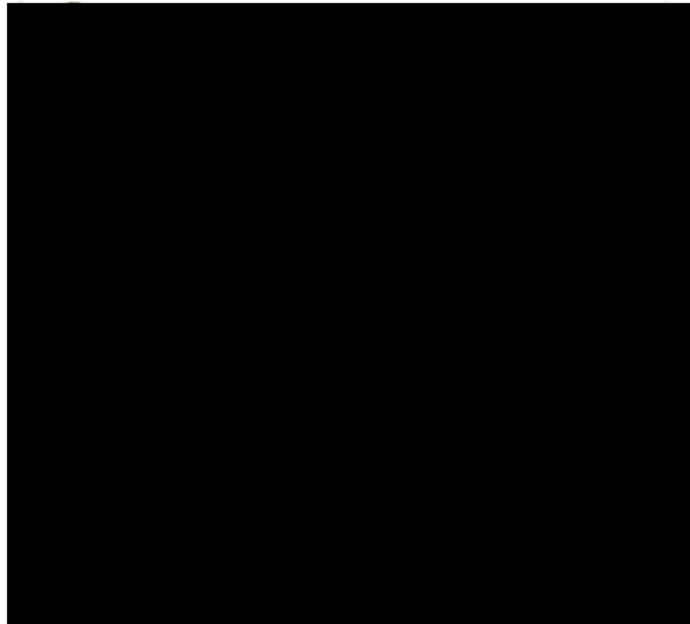
[REDACTED]

Based on this message, I believed the [REDACTED] was attempting to restrict any speech in support of Charlie Kirk, whether political or religious; yet, at the same time, openly allowed and encouraged liberal political speech as well as anti-Israel speech. In response to the message, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



supervisors immediately deleted my message.



I asked a transgender student for his legal name.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The student, who is male, but dresses as a female, refused to give me his legal name. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] claimed that I violated some [REDACTED] rules during my interaction with the transgender student. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SFA fails to take appropriate action to protect me and others like me.

After numerous requests to meet with SFA [REDACTED], which SFA initially tried to put off, my legal counsel and I were finally granted a meeting with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

During the meeting I explained to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]—was being operated as a shadow D.E.I. program. Such programs were recently banned by the legislature. *See* TEX. EDUC. CODE § 51.3525.

I also discussed several other serious issues that have occurred within the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Moreover, I told [REDACTED] that the [REDACTED] openly allowed the display of LGBTQ posters and stickers and allowed [REDACTED] to wear clothing with obvious political slogans such as “*No person can be illegal on stolen land*” and “*From the River to the Sea*.” [REDACTED] “*From the River to the Sea*” was particularly concerning because it has long been understood a call for the destruction of Israel and the ethnic cleansing of Jews from Israel.

[REDACTED]

At the end of the meeting, I asked that SFA do a few specific things:

1. I would experience no further retaliation;
2. Begin and conduct a full and transparent investigation of what was happening in the [REDACTED];
3. Hold those responsible for the way I was treated accountable;
4. Implement policies and procedures to ensure that other students do not experience similar religious or viewpoint discrimination as I had; and
5. A comparable employment position somewhere else at the university.

I left the meeting hopeful that SFA took my reports seriously and would take proper, and immediate action to address these serious issues. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

On [REDACTED]—over a week after the initial meeting, my counsel and I were provided with an “update.” In short, SFA informed us that [REDACTED] visited the [REDACTED] and would be “firming up dress code expectations.” This fell far short of the full and transparent investigation that I requested and certainly did not hold anyone accountable.

SFA also told us that that [REDACTED] staff did not know what “*From the River to the Sea*” meant. My counsel and I have serious doubts about the veracity of this statement [REDACTED] staff are very politically active within the [REDACTED] and on social media; they know what “*From the River to the Sea*” means.

In response, we asked for the following specific information:

1. Has [REDACTED] concluded [REDACTED] investigation or is the investigation still ongoing?
2. What, if any, specific disciplinary action is being taken with respect to the [REDACTED] staff that was involved in these incidents?

3. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We also advised SFA that we had learned that [REDACTED] had attempted to [REDACTED] against me but then tried to cover it up.

[REDACTED] responded on behalf of SFA stating that the University viewed the [REDACTED] issue as “a case of being overly cautious given the penalty for failure to report, not weaponize.” Additionally, SFA mischaracterized what [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SFA also indicated that [REDACTED] has concluded [REDACTED] review of this matter, absent any additional information being provided. The university will not comment on what, if any, disciplinary action has been taken.” SFA also refused to provide any specific information concerning [REDACTED] “review,” including who [REDACTED] talked to, what materials [REDACTED] reviewed, what [REDACTED] learned, and what action [REDACTED] took. SFA then told me that [REDACTED]

Request for an investigation.

I am respectfully requesting that the Ombudsman undertake a formal, comprehensive investigation into what is happening within the [REDACTED] at Stephen F. Austin State University. Based on what I observed and what happened to me, I believe that the [REDACTED] is shadow D.E.I. program.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

March 13, 2026
Date

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CRIMINAL, EMPLOYMENT, & INJURY LAW

March 13, 2026

Office of the Ombudsman
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
P.O. Box 12788
Austin, Texas 78711-2788

via Regular Mail

RE: *Complaint by* [REDACTED] *Stephen F. Austin State University Student* [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Simmons:

My law firm, Briscoe Cain, and I represent [REDACTED] with respect to violations of Texas law by Stephen F. Austin State University and employees in SFA's [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attached to this letter, you will find [REDACTED] Statutory Complaint. We are submitting the Statutory Complaint with your office in accordance with Chapter 51 of the *Texas Education Code*. Please accept this letter and the attachment as [REDACTED] formal complaint.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me by phone at (936) 560-3300 or email at tanner@thegoodlawyer.com.

Respectfully,

/s/ Tanner G.M. Franklin
Tanner G. M. Franklin

/s/ Briscoe Cain
Briscoe Cain

Enclosure