

## How to create many, many local tyrants!

A report in [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) today, December 19, 2013, advises how Kansas, and other administrative overseers, can create many, many, local tyrants.

December 19, 2013 by [Charles Huckabee](#)

### Kansas Board Says Universities Can Fire Employees for 'Improper' Tweets

The Kansas Board of Regents unanimously approved new policy language on Wednesday that gives state university leaders the authority “to suspend, dismiss, or terminate from employment any faculty or staff member who makes improper use of social media.”

Fred Logan, the board’s chairman, [told the Lawrence Journal-World](#) that the policy change had been “inspired by” the uproar over a [controversial tweet](#) about the National Rifle Association that was posted by David W. Guth, a faculty member at the University of Kansas, in the wake of the September 16 shootings at the Washington Navy Yard.

The [new language](#) is an addition to a section of the Board Policy Manual that deals with suspensions, dismissals, and terminations. It outlines a number of ways in which use of social-media sites like Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook might be considered improper. Among them are any communication made through social media that is pursuant to an employee’s official duties and “contrary to the best interests of the university.” Other improper uses include inciting violence or disclosing protected information like student records, or any communication that “impairs discipline by superiors or harmony among co-workers.”

Mr. Logan said in a [news release](#) that the goal of the policy was “to provide guidance to all university employees and university administration regarding the use of social media.” He said the board had drawn on language from U.S. Supreme Court cases “to acknowledge the right of employees generally to speak as private citizens on matters of public concern while also recognizing the right of employers to take action in situations involving unprotected speech.”

Mr. Guth, an associate professor of journalism, was placed on leave in September after his Twitter post angered many people who thought he was wishing death on the children of NRA members. He has since returned to work, performing administrative duties. The university has said he will not be allowed to [return to the classroom](#) this year.

Mr. Logan declined to speculate on whether Mr. Guth could have been fired under the new policy.

Comment:

Dear Kansas, You'll rue the day giving administrators and bureaucrats the authority to interpret and exercise their power "to suspend, dismiss, or terminate from employment any faculty or staff member who makes improper use of social media" which includes speech "contrary to the best interests of the university" ... or ... "impairs discipline by superiors or harmony among co-workers."

Instead of a national tyrant like exists/existed in many countries, you've created many, many local tyrants. And, keep in mind, given university "leaders'" immunity and state funds, you've made them absolute tyrants. (Kansas Board of Regents, evidence indicates, would, if they could, impose themselves -- their tyranny-- on all of us.)

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