



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

Office of the President

MEMORANDUM

TO: Concerned TTU Faculty Members

FROM: Lawrence Schovanec, President
Michael Galyean, Provost and Senior Vice President

DATE: November 27, 2018

SUBJECT: Gilley Lecture

Yesterday afternoon, we received your request to cancel the lecture by Dr. Bruce Gilley, scheduled for presentation this evening as part of the regular programming of the Institute for the Study of Western Civilization. Dr. Gilley’s presentation is entitled, “The Case for Colonialism,” and the advance information on this event provided on the Institute’s website indicates that “In this talk, Professor Gilley will argue that European colonialism in the 19th and 20th centuries had an overwhelmingly positive impact on colonial areas, whether located in India, Indonesia, Nigeria, or Belize.” Many of you are active in scholarship in this particular area, and we took serious note of your concern that Dr. Gilley’s lecture is based on a widely discredited essay that lacks academic integrity and rigorous scholarly review.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Moreover, we emphatically believe that there is no case for colonialism. A system built on the subjugation of one people by another cannot be defended, regardless of what alleged “good” might have come from the system. Indeed, our view is that one can never make a case for practices that deprive people of basic human rights and freedoms or that marginalize people on the basis of race, gender, or culture.

Despite our disagreement with Dr. Gilley’s basic contention that a case can be made for a practice so consistently maligned as colonialism, we deeply respect the right of free speech. We believe that even speech we disagree with intensely – that we consider objectionable and potentially harmful – is protected by the Constitution. Thus, notwithstanding our strong disagreement with Dr. Gilley’s ideas regarding colonialism, out of respect for the right to free speech, we will not cancel the lecture. We encourage those who have concerns to attend and engage in a healthy debate with Dr. Gilley regarding the merit, or lack of merit, of his arguments.