

The inevitable ruling by the Wisconsin Supreme Court that Marquette University violated the free speech rights of Professor John McAdams ought to be the last straw for a Marquette Board of Trustees that has allowed President Michael Lovell to destroy the university's reputation.

Lovell's brazen attempt to de-Catholicize Marquette comes at the same time other Catholic institutions are re-embracing their religious heritage. Under Marquette, Catholic teaching and tradition has been essentially purged. The latest incident has been an attempt to weaken iconic Gesu Church by taking away its parking. If this were isolated, Lovell's antics could be tolerated. But it is part of a long pattern of embracing social radicalism and counter-culturalism at the expense of the university's Catholic identity.

Under Lovell, Catholic values have been trashed and a longstanding independent church has been targeted. The McAdams case was particularly egregious as the university stood up for a bigoted teaching instructor who attempted to bully a pro-traditional marriage student into silence at the expense of McAdams, who heroically backed the student and outed the grotesque intimidation by the teaching assistant.

Marquette now claims it was merely reaffirming its Jesuit values. But those values have been chased away from the moment Lovell, the first non-Jesuit president in the university's history, arrived on campus from UW-Milwaukee.

The McAdams case has received national attention from the Wall Street Journal and conservative media who have exposed the university as being hostile to conservative and religious speech and one of the most intolerant universities in the country. It is time for Marquette's slumbering trustees to realize what Lovell has done to this still potentially great university.

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