

Reviewer 1:

REVIEW of
“Mizzou Madness:
A Case Study in Non-Diversity, Non-Freedom, and Non-Academics”

The author’s account of the meltdown at Mizzou demonstrates that the flagship university is far from unique: Mizzou both fed on past illiberal assaults on learning and, in turn, has fostered new atrocities across the nation.

What all these disruptions have in common, the author shows, is the radical depreciation in the status of human reason, which consists in the denial that reason can discover objective Truth. There is, according to these postmodernist-dominated schools, no Truth to discover. With this turn, the author shows, universities lose their reason for being, and with this loss of purpose has come also the loss of a defense of free inquiry.

In this reviewer’s opinion, “Mizzou Madness” is a taut, deft, and ultimately persuasive account of both the debacle at Mizzou and its philosophic (postmodern) roots. I recommend it for publication.

I found two minor typos in the manuscript:

- Page 4:

Here, the author refers to the deaths of “hundreds of thousands of Americans” in the Vietnam War. I would change this to 58,000 American lives lost in Vietnam.

- Page 6:

Here, the author refers to “Arum and Josipa,” the two authors of *Academically Adrift*. Josipa is the first name of Arum’s coauthor. Josipa’s last name is Roksa.

Reviewer 2:

Again, I apologize for my tardiness in reviewing the manuscript. This week, as I started to do so, I was overcome by a severe cold and flu-like symptoms. But I am better and have now read the manuscript.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Rochester paper, and considered it well written and factually accurate, with a fairly large number of footnote citations in support of the basic thesis. (very minor point: in footnote 14, I think it is "Rick Hess," not "Rich Hess). The author's subjective opinions shine through, but that is not all that unusual these days in papers for scholarly journals.

The paper does read as a superb account of the decline in intellectual diversity on American campuses, fomented largely by left-wing members of campus communities. It would be very appropriate in outlets like the *Atlantic Monthly* or *National Review*. It is somewhat more borderline, however, for a strictly academic journal. The recounting of events at a few campuses can be criticized that this may not be truly representative of campuses as a whole. Some research I have been doing on campus speakers, for example, does show schools in general have a preference for ones with a left-wing perspective, but that many commentators somewhat exaggerate this phenomena, which is far less pronounced at smaller public universities than elite private ones, for example. The author did no extensive surveying of his own. There is little or no original research, relying mainly on secondary sources.

Should the paper be accepted? It depends on the type of journal you wish to have. I think this paper needs to see the light of day and be published. I think academic journals too seldom publish papers such as that of Rochester. I would be inclined to publish it. That said, it might open you up to criticism that you are running a journal of opinion, not a scientific journal objectively seeking the truth. Yet the paper gets to a core issue --the integrity of the academic process and the commitment to free dissemination of ideas. For those reasons, I probably would be inclined to accept it.