

'Dangerous' academics battle back

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A group of professors, students and free-speech advocates have fired **back** at conservative author David Horowitz and his book *The Professors: The 101 Most **Dangerous Academics** in America*, calling his work "sloppy in the extreme."

The book, released in February, was prompted in part by University of Colorado professor Ward Churchill. The ethnic studies professor was widely criticized for comparing some victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to Nazis. He is currently under investigation for research misconduct.

But the book also focused on 100 other professors who Horowitz said let their "radical" politics infiltrate the classroom. Along with Churchill, it included five others from Colorado.

In the report "Facts Count," released Tuesday by the group Free Exchange on Campus, two of those professors - along with 21 others from outside Colorado - contradict claims that Horowitz made about them.

On Wednesday, Horowitz called the report "a politically motivated and maliciously designed attack" that misrepresents many of his arguments.

Oneida Meranto, a professor of political science at Metropolitan State College of Denver, wrote in "Facts Count" that Horowitz wrote that Meranto is an associate professor, when, in fact, she is a full professor; wrote that she served as adviser to a student group that doesn't exist; and misrepresented the number of articles she has published.

Meranto also wrote that Horowitz neglected to mention that Metro's former president cleared Meranto of charges of political bias.

Dean Saitta, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Denver, wrote in the report that Horowitz described him as chairman of the anthropology department and director of DU's Museum of Anthropology, when he has not served as chairman since 2003 or museum director since 2000.

Saitta also denied Horowitz's claim that he defended Churchill's beliefs and actions.

"I believe that what Churchill said on 9/12 - like the many outrageous and inflammatory things that people across the political spectrum said on 9/12 - is covered by every American's right to free speech," Saitta wrote in response. "I've never defended the specific beliefs of Ward Churchill."

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