A troubling denial of academic freedom at the University of California, Los Angeles: ACSH trustee Dr. James Enstrom has been terminated by a secret vote of the faculty after serving for 34 years as a faculty member at the UCLA School of Public Health.

Dr. Enstrom's research has not made him exactly popular with politically correct types. In 2003, he co-authored a paper in the British Medical Journal concluding that secondhand smoke did not cause chronic disease, and lately he has been speaking out against pending California air-quality regulations that would devastate the state's trucking and heavy construction fleets.

They fired him because he allegedly went beyond the science of his paper, and inserted his own opinion, says ACSH's Jeff Stier. If that were the standard that the University of California system used for firing people, they'd be left with no professors!

When you write politically correct stuff, everything is just fine, said Dr. Ross. When you write politically incorrect stuff, suddenly you become a rabble-rouser and a paid-off liar for industry and your job's in jeopardy. This story isn't over yet Dr. Enstrom is on UCLA's payroll until the end of the month, and we hope the university comes to its senses but if not, I am sure some other faculty will benefit from UCLA's mistake.