



THE

# AFCON

SENTINEL



Volume XIV, Number 1

A Quarterly of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

March 19, 2010

## AFCON OFFICERS

Linda Parker  
President

Rod Wagner  
President-Elect

Dwayne Ball  
Past President

Peggy Adair  
Secretary

Cathi McMurtry  
Treasurer

David Moshman  
Policy Coordinator

Peggy Adair  
Legislative Liaison

Robert Brooke  
Webmaster

Tom Black  
Newsletter Editor

## Purpose

To promote academic freedom, defined as intellectual freedom in educational and research contexts. This includes freedoms of belief and expression and access to information and ideas.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—Linda Parker

WELCOME FROM THE AFCON PRESIDENT FOR 2010. The coming year promises to be interesting and challenging. The Executive Board is working on strategic goals and input is welcomed. We are considering goals on membership development, educational activities about the Student Expression Bill (LB898), programs to support academic freedom, and archiving our organizational records. This full agenda can be accomplished with broad involvement of our individual and organizational members, and I look forward to becoming better acquainted with you and encouraging your participation in AFCON.

MEETING NOTES: Over the years, the AFCON Board has had various meeting schedules. For this year, the Board voted to have full Board meetings every other month, with the Executive Committee meeting in the alternate months. All of our meetings are open. Please consult the web site (<http://www.nebafcon.org>) for dates, time, and location. You would be most welcome at any of our meetings. Virtual participation is also an option if you let me know in advance of the meeting. Just email me, [lparkerlib@gmail.com](mailto:lparkerlib@gmail.com) to make the arrangements.

MUSINGS: In looking back over the past 40 years of my career as an academic librarian, I challenged myself to think of the times that academic freedom has been an issue for me. Actually, my free expression rights were first challenged during my last class in college. After stating that, in

my humble opinion, the six African American students who had integrated my university had the right to free speech, my professor tried to flunk me. Other instances included attempts to censor library materials that I had purchased and attempts to limit my ability to think critically about administrative decisions. In 2006, the American Library Association passed a "Resolution in Support of Academic Freedom." The resolution read in part, "

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association reaffirms the principles of academic freedom embodied in the American Association of University Professors' "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure (1940)..."

For a complete version of the resolution please go to the following web site, <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/ifresolutions/academicfreedom.cfm>

AFCON membership is made up of individuals and organizations representing students, teachers, professors, authors, librarians, and publishers. I would like to add links to your organization's academic or intellectual freedom statements or resolutions to the AFCON web site. I invite you to send me the links, [lparkerlib@gmail.com](mailto:lparkerlib@gmail.com).

Stand up and Speak out!

## Upcoming Events

AFCON Board Meetings, April 10, May 8, and June 12, 2010  
Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska; 10 AM

## Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings—Peggy Adair

### December 12, 2009—

**PRESENT:** Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Robert Brooke, Nancy Comer, Laurie Thomas Lee, Cathi McMurtry, Max Morrissey, David Moshman, Linda Parker, Doug Paterson, and Mary Reiman.

**MINUTES:** Paper copies of the November 14, 2009, minutes were not available. The board will review November and December minutes at the January 2010 board meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's report dated December 12, 2009, was reviewed and filed for audit. Balance on hand for December 11, 2009, is \$1,999.11. Income and Expenses for the AFCON annual meeting were reviewed. After all expenses were paid AFCON realized a profit of \$460.55.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Board members discussed the AFCON annual meeting held on November 14, 2009. Ball and Brooke commended the annual meeting chair, Linda Parker, and committee members Doug Paterson and Karen Drevo for their work in organizing and carrying out AFCON's most well-attended annual meeting to date. The meeting also generated publicity for AFCON due to the presence of our guest speaker, Dr. William Ayers of Chicago.

Ball commended McMurtry for her superb accounting of the financial receipts and expenditures for the event.

Parker has developed a booklet to aid in planning future AFCON annual meetings. The documents include a program checklist, budget proposal, and contract for services.

Paterson distributed to board members 5 copies of the DVD of Ayers' speech created by his wife, Marghee.

**PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT:** Parker plans to create a handbook for future AFCON presidents and presidents-elect to provide guidance and a timeline of events. Parker also plans to develop an official AFCON logo.

**BOARD MEMBERS:** A motion was made by Brooke and seconded by Lee to appoint Max Morrissey to the position of at-large board member as a student. Discussion followed that such positions are provided for in the AFCON by-laws. Motion carried.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** Ball announced the deadline for sending articles to Tom Black for the next issue of the *Sentinel* is **February 20, 2010**. The December *Sentinel* will be sent out via mail with ballots to elect officers for 2010.

**POLICY COORDINATOR:** Moshman discussed the 2006 *Garcetti* decision as it is related to educators. Moshman explained

that in the *Garcetti* decision the U.S. Supreme Court has declared criticism of employers by public employees is not protected speech under the First Amendment when they are speaking as employees. They still have First Amendment protection when speaking as private citizens.

The issue for educators is the decision appears to stretch the *Hazelwood* decision to apply to all teachers who are public employees, even though the 1988 *Hazelwood* case initially affected only high school students.

Moshman said the AAUP is in the difficult position of arguing for special and unique free speech rights for one group of public employees: public university educators.

Moshman indicated this argument will most likely fail; however AAUP has consistently supported the principle of academic freedom based upon the need to further education, independent of First Amendment protection, since 1915. It is upon the educational-need argument that educators are more likely to prevail in protecting academic freedom, Moshman said.

**AFCON Action:** Moshman will continue to monitor.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORTS:** No reports.

**OLD BUSINESS: STUDENT EXPRESSION BILL:** The board discussed whether to move forward with AFCON's educational efforts on the student expression bill without the formal endorsement of the bill by NSEA. Consensus of the board was to move forward with educational efforts. Adair will provide copies of the bill, latest incident summaries, and a "how to help" educational document to webmaster Brooke and president-elect Parker. Individual board members will work on inviting students and teachers to testify in support of the bill when it receives a public hearing in January. Ball will contact Mark Karpf to see if we can obtain a list of current high school journalism advisors across the state so Adair can contact them and invite high school students to discuss the bill in their schools.

Board members should get their list of testifiers' names with contact information to Adair by **January 5, 2010**.

**NEW BUSINESS: AAUP STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE:** The board discussed the Statement of Principle recently issued by AAUP in response to a number of recent incidents in which threats to safety were used as reasons to censor. The statement included the incident of the UNL disinvitation of Dr. William Ayers as an example. The statement encourages "colleges and universities in particular" to exercise leadership and stand up

for certain basic principles: "that the free exchange of ideas is essential to liberal democracy; that each person is entitled to hold and express his or her own views without fear of bodily harm; and that the suppression of ideas is a form of repression used by authoritarian regimes around the world to control and dehumanize their citizens and squelch opposition." The statement is signed by a number of national organizations. Paterson raised concern that the AAUP is not consistent in vocalizing support for academic freedom for other than western cultures.

A motion was made by Moshman, seconded by Brooke, to add AFCON to the list of organizations in formal support of the statement of principle. Motion carried.

**JANUARY MEETING LOCATION:** The board discussed various alternatives for AFCON meetings, including holding bi-monthly meetings, alternating meeting locations between Lincoln and Omaha, holding some meetings at Mahoney State Park, and holding web conferences. Particular concern was for winter months when weather can make travel difficult.

Parker made a motion to hold the January 9, 2010, meeting at the UNO Library in Omaha with web-conferencing available for those unable to attend. Motion was seconded by Adair. Motion carried on an eight to two vote.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS AND AFCON:** Morrissey explained Region V serves people with disabilities including students in special education. Morrissey indicated special education students face many issues, some of which may be academic freedom issues that are within the purview of AFCON. Morrissey offered to be the liaison between special education students and AFCON. The board agreed that Morrissey should work with Moshman, Policy Coordinator, to bring any special education issues that may be AFCON-related to the attention of the board.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the board of directors of AFCON will be on **Saturday, January 9, 2010**, at 10:00 a.m. in UNO Library, Omaha.

### January 9, 2010—

**PRESENT:** Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Robert Brooke, Karen Buckley, Nancy Comer, Bob Haller, Laurie Thomas Lee, Cathi McMurtry, Max Morrissey, Linda Parker, Doug Paterson, and Rod Wagner, Excused Absence: David Moshman.

(See **Summaries**, page 3)

## Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings

(Continued from Page 2)

**MINUTES:** Minutes for November 14, 2009, and December 12, 2009, were approved as presented via email.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's report dated December 12, 2009, was reviewed and filed for audit. Balance on hand for December 11, 2009, is \$1,999.11.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Parker reported she and Dwayne Ball worked for 10 hours practicing the web conference so it would run smoothly. ☺

**NEWSLETTER:** Deadline to submit articles for the next edition of the Sentinel is February 22, 2010. Articles should be emailed to Tom Black at [wpc6296@cablone.net](mailto:wpc6296@cablone.net).

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Adair reported she reviewed all legislative bills introduced in the first three days of the legislature and none pertain to academic freedom.

### STUDENT EXPRESSION

**BILL:** Adair reported Senator Haar has not yet introduced the student expression bill. She commended Bob Haller for his work in visiting with senators and encouraging their support for the bill. Adair reported we need firm commitments from people who will testify at the public hearing for the bill. In particular, we need people willing to testify as representatives of the organizations who have officially endorsed the bill. Ball reported Doris Martin has committed to testify.

Adair reported she has compiled an email list of 82 journalism/social studies/language arts high school teachers across the state and will contact said list once the bill has been introduced and will encourage the teachers to engage their students in discussion and writing about student expression.

Morrissey suggested we research the Nebraska state curriculum standards, particularly for social studies, as the standards incorporate the philosophy of the student expression bill and can be used as an argument in support of the bill.

AFCON members can follow the progress of the student expression bill by logging onto the Legislature's website: [www.nebraskalegislature.gov](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov).

**ELECTIONS:** Haller reported election results are in and the slate of officers presented at the AFCON annual meeting has been elected. Officers for 2010 are: President, Linda Parker; President-elect, Rod Wagner; Treasurer, Cathi McMurtry; and Secretary, Peggy Adair.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORTS:

Comer reported the Nebraska State Reading Conference is February 25-27 in Kearney. The NSRA has not yet officially endorsed the student expression bill.

Parker reported the Nebraska Library Association board meeting is January 28. The NLA has endorsed the student expression bill.

### ANNUAL MEETING 2010:

Wagner commended Parker for designing an annual meeting planning template to assist future presidents-elect in carrying out their annual meeting duties. Wagner asked board members to submit ideas for speakers for the annual meeting and also solicited annual meeting committee members.

The board brainstormed ideas, including: More focus on K-12 public schools; invite the new Nebraska Education Commissioner to speak; invite David Horowitz to speak; examine the worldwide status of academic freedom as it pertains to the UN Rights of the Child and global education; invite the head of Washington, D.C., schools to speak; invite Lincoln-area students to speak on state academic freedom interests; have a joint panel of speakers representing global, national academic freedom; invite Phil Schoo to speak.

Wagner will assemble his annual meeting committee before the February AFCON meeting and will present idea outlines to the board for further discussion.

Other annual meeting thoughts: Haller suggested the possibility of holding a panel-type AFCON meeting at a time other than the annual meeting. Paterson suggested an annual meeting form of 1) national keynote speaker followed by 2) lunch and then 3) a panel on statewide issues to secure more attendees. Paterson also noted we secured about 12 new AFCON memberships as a result of inviting William Ayers to speak at the 2009 annual meeting.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING-- 2010

**GOALS:** The board discussed ideas for goals for 2010 and the following goals were approved by consensus (these goals are not prioritized:) Renew connection and relationship with K-12 schools; continue educational outreach on student expression bill; expand the membership base of AFCON, including individual and organizational memberships

### STRATEGIC PLANNING--

**TIMELINE:** Parker presented an outline of monthly timelines for AFCON activities. Parker requested that members review the timeline and email additions and ideas to her: [lparkerlib@gmail.com](mailto:lparkerlib@gmail.com).

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Haller reported he printed 100 copies of the December Sentinel, mailed 68, and has 32 left. He requested that board members please contact him at [mshortt@inebraska.com](mailto:mshortt@inebraska.com) to pick up the copies and distribute them to interested parties so they don't go to waste. Haller's budget overage of nine dollars and change was approved by Parker.

Haller reported he has drafted a written AFCON resolution in support of professors in Iran and he will present the resolution to the board at the February meeting for discussion and action. Parker will distribute the draft of the resolution when she sends out the February AFCON agenda. Paterson reported he will be visiting Iran in May, and the board quickly raised approximately nine dollars and change, coincidentally the exact overage of Haller's printing costs, to apply to Paterson's anticipated ransom.

Paterson commended Parker and Ball for their work on arranging the web conference. Parker requested that the board members in attendance of the web conference please email her with their thoughts and comments on the conference.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the board of directors of AFCON will be on **Saturday, February 13, 2010**, at 10:00 a.m. in **UNO Criss Library, Omaha**.

### February 13, 2010—

**PRESENT:** Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Robert Brooke, Karen Buckley, Nancy Comer, Laurie Thomas Lee, Cathi McMurtry, Dave Moshman, Linda Parker, Doug Paterson, and Rod Wagner.

**MINUTES:** Minutes for January 9, 2010 were approved upon a motion by Ball and second by Paterson.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's report dated February 12, 2010, was reviewed and filed for audit. Balance on hand for February 12, 2010, is \$1,805.28. McMurtry reported she has begun sending out dues reminders for organizations and individual members.

(See **Summaries**, page 4)

## Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings (Continued from Page 3)

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Parker reported she is working on a timeline and yearly goals for AFCON. She attended the public hearing for LB 898, the Student Expression Act.

President Parker presented a draft AFCON letterhead to the board for ideas. The board indicated by consensus that member organizations should not be listed on the letterhead and instead the executive board members should be listed. Adair offered to make changes to the letterhead.

**NEWSLETTER:** Deadline to submit articles for the next edition of the Sentinel is February 22, 2010. Articles should be emailed to Tom Black at [wpc6296@cableone.net](mailto:wpc6296@cableone.net).

**POLICY COORDINATOR REPORT:** Moshman reported the New York City court case in which he testified as an expert witness was ruled in favor of the school district. The judge ruled that the Hazelwood decision gives school boards total authority, which Moshman noted underscores the need for legislative action regarding protection of student expression.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Adair reported the hearing room was packed with testifiers in support of the student expression bill (LB 898) at the public hearing on January 26. Not all proponents of the bill were allowed to speak (a bit of free speech irony) at the discretion of the Education Committee chair; however, proponents were encouraged to hand in their written testimony to the committee.

On January 29, Haller, Parker, Moshman, and Adair met with Senator Haar and his legislative aide, Tom Green, to discuss next steps. Tom Green is going to coordinate a meeting among key supporters and opponents of the bill to see if a compromise can be reached.

Brooke suggested it may be useful to meet privately with the superintendent of Aurora Public Schools to get his ideas for compromise. Brooke will check with his contacts who know the superintendent to see if a meeting can be arranged.

Adair reported no other legislative bills have been introduced that substantially affect academic freedom.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORTS:** UNL Faculty Senate is still grappling with how best to present a symposium on academic freedom.

Nebraska Center for the Book will meet in two weeks.

Nebraska State Reading Conference will be held February 25-27 in Kearney. Adair will be presenting a workshop on student expression titled "SPEECHLESS: The suppression of student voices in Nebraska with a roadmap for change."

UNO students, in joyful expression of academic freedom, assembly, and free speech, staged an impromptu multicultural and multi-lifestyle demonstration on the UNO campus after they learned a small-but-notorious group from Wichita was coming to visit some Omaha college campuses.

**GOALS FOR 2010:** Parker presented the following proposed AFCON goals for 2010:

- Develop membership outreach
- Document the student expression bill
- Plan programs to support academic freedom
- Organize AFCON records

The board discussed the need to reinvigorate participation by membership organizations that are presently inactive.

Ball offered to chair a committee to brainstorm ideas to strengthen membership organization participation. Comer and Lee volunteered to assist Ball on the committee. Ball commented that the first need is to identify the issue(s) that precludes participation by organizations.

Parker will revise the goals and will circulate the revision to the board via email.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The board discussed at length the need to gain more participation by member organizations.

Brooke suggested a way to coax organizations back is to do something together with member organizations, such as contests and/or awards for students. The board concurred this is an excellent idea we should pursue. Lee said the ACLU is currently involved in a student video contest that has a March deadline and she will report the outcome of that action to the AFCON board.

The board discussed reducing the number of AFCON board meetings as one way of encouraging more participation by organizations.

Motion was made by Ball, second by Comer, to hold AFCON board meetings every other month beginning in February, 2010, with the executive board meeting monthly. Discussion followed. The board clarified that with passage of the motion AFCON board meetings will be held in February, April, June, August, October and December of 2010. Executive board will meet in the months that AFCON board does not have a scheduled meeting. Meetings will continue to be on the second Saturday of the month. AFCON will continue to hold a separate annual meeting, generally held in November. Motion carried. (*According to the AFCON Constitution, the Executive Board [Committee] is comprised of the President, President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past President.*)

Parker noted the following meetings and sites:

March, Executive Board meeting Eiseley Library, Lincoln  
 April, AFCON Board meeting, Eiseley Library, Lincoln  
 May, Executive Board meeting, Omaha  
 June, AFCON Board meeting, Omaha

**ANNUAL MEETING 2010:** Wagner announced he is still in need of assistance in coordinating the 2010 annual meeting. Members interested in helping should contact him at [rod.wagner@nebraska.gov](mailto:rod.wagner@nebraska.gov).

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Due to time constraints the board referred agenda items not yet completed to the executive board for discussion in March.

Parker will send an updated AFCON meeting calendar to Brooke so he can post it on the website.

**NEXT MEETINGS:** The next meeting of the **AFCON EXECUTIVE BOARD** will be on **Saturday, March 13, 2010**, at 10:00 a.m. in **Eiseley Library, Lincoln**.

The next meeting of the **AFCON BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will be **Saturday, April 10, 2010**, at 10:00 a.m. in **Eiseley Library, Lincoln**.

## Homophobia in Nebraska: Then and Now

James K. Cole, Ph.D. Emeritus Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Nebraska psychologists are currently faced with a persistent attempt by a politically powerful organization to impose a licensing regulation that endorses providers' choice to refuse mental health services for clients, or referrals for services, based on client sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or any other identity that violates a provider's claim to a "moral or religious conviction." The psychology licensing board is firmly opposed to this attempt to violate its Code of Ethics. Two other behavioral health boards are being pressured to accept a similar discrimination proposal. To date, unless circumstances change before this paper is published, intense political pressure to compromise a basic anti-discrimination principle of mental health practice continues despite nine months of negotiations.

This attempt that includes discrimination against homosexuals prompts the recall of two earlier episodes of homophobia in the history of Nebraska and Lincoln.

In 1970 Dr. Lou Crompton, a distinguished English scholar at the University of Nebraska and I introduced an advanced seminar on homophile studies. Dr. Crompton was a nationally recognized, award-winning authority on the history of homosexuality across cultures as well as a winner of the highest literary prize given by Phi Beta Kappa for his book on George Bernard Shaw. The course was eventually approved by the Board of Regents, but came under fire from a select number of Nebraska legislators led by Senator Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff. Dr. Crompton and I, along with a multidisciplinary faculty steering committee and other supporters for the course, became the subject of an investigation by the Nebraska Highway Patrol. Eventually we were subpoenaed to appear before a legislative "un-American activities" hearing in Omaha headed by Senator Carpenter. As official coordinator for the course,

I presented a paper defending not simply the right of academic freedom, but the moral responsibility to teach the course. In the Daily Nebraskan (October 30, 1970), Senator Henry Pedersen is quoted as saying, "For a long time it was understood that a queer was a queer. Do you have to take a 40-hour course to be told there are nice literary queers as well as dirty queers?" Col. J.E. Kruger, head of the Highway Patrol, testified that publicity for the course will cause persons with "abnormal tendencies" to come to Nebraska that could lead to "violent acts." (Lincoln Star October 31, 1970)

Subsequently, Carpenter introduced a number of legislative bills that would get rid of certain tenured faculty, punish the student newspaper that was publishing an ongoing byline titled "Terrible Terry's gonna get you," punish the University for allowing the course, and prevent the teaching of "aberrant" sexuality in any education setting in the state. Members of the legislature were told a vote against his bills would be a vote in favor of homosexuality. The University publicity office told us that no legislative member in his/her right political mind would vote against Carpenter's bills. However we had tremendous active support from many faculty, several members of the Board of Regents, and the University Dean of Faculty. (This was before the University divided into separate campuses.) In particular, Regent Edward Schwartzkopf was an outspoken supporter of the course, along with Regent Ben Greenberg. Dean of Faculties C. Peter Magrath, in contrast to opposition by some University administrators, gave public speeches supporting the course and defending academic freedom. Professor David Levine, Chair of the Department of Psychology, and Professor William Caldwell, Chair of the course steering committee, were active supporters.

University publicity folk were wrong in anticipating a Carpenter victory. In fact a substantial majority of the legislature

(almost 2 to 1) defeated all of these bills. My proudest moment came when portions of my white paper previously read at the Omaha hearing were read during debate on the floor of the legislature. Nebraska legislators in their overwhelming vote had the guts to stand up against Carpenter's morally insidious attempt at political intimidation.

However, the attempt to prevent teaching about homosexuality continued for another year led by a Board of Regent member who campaigned on this issue. Eventually an anti-homosexual article appeared, apparently written by this individual that was identical in large part to homophobic contents of a book without the Regent's referencing the book. The article concluded that homosexuals are prone to murder children. The student newspaper responded with this retort: "How much prose could a Prokop cop if a Prokop could cop prose?" With this admonition the opposition to scholarly curricula on homosexuality at the University effectively ended.

Homophobia continued to be promoted in Lincoln in the 1980s, especially in public statements made by Dr. Paul Cameron, a nationally recognized critic of gay rights. Dr. Cameron had been invited to Nebraska to oppose a Lincoln municipal proposal that would add "sexual orientation" to the city's human rights code. On January 21, 1982, Cameron and I engaged in debate in the Student Union. The Daily Nebraskan described my presentation as "defending gay rights and opposing Cameron's anti-homosexual stance." In a May 3, 1982, speech recorded on audio tape, the Lincoln Star quotes Cameron as saying: "Right now here in Lincoln there is a 4-year-old boy who has had his genitals almost severed from his body at Gateway in a restroom with a homosexual act." Rumors of other homosexual mutilations also circulated in Lincoln.

(See **HOMOPHOBIA**, page 5)

(HOMOPHOBIA, from page 4)

On May 6, 1982, a headline in the Lincoln Star stated, "Police say mutilation stories are rumors only," and the Lincoln Journal reported, "Mutilation rumor said unfounded." In a Lincoln Star (May 10, 1982,) editorial when Cameron was asked about the above mutilation rumor, Cameron insisted "it could be true," even though, according to the Lincoln Star editorial, "responsible authorities in the city say there is not a shred of evidence that such an incident

ever took place." In a tract distributed in Lincoln, Cameron is reported as saying, "Homosexuality is an infectious appetite with personal and social consequences. It is like the dog that gets a taste for blood after killing its first victim and desires to get more victims thereafter with a ravenous hunger." In scholarly papers by Professors Robert Brown (Nebraska Medical Journal, November, 1985, pp 410-414,) and Lou Crompton ("Point of View," Lincoln Star January 2, 1982,) the outrageous

claims and misrepresentation of scientific evidence frequently made by Cameron in public presentations and publications were effectively countered. Unfortunately, on May 11, 1982, Lincoln voters rejected the amendment placed on the ballot that would have added "sexual orientation" to the city's municipal code.

One victory over homophobia at the University, one defeat in the city, and today one struggle in doubt.

## UNIVERSITY REPORTS — Dwayne Ball

I use as my sources the Chronicle of Higher Education (CHE,) the newsletters of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) and other sources as noted.

I'm going to try something new this month, which is to give you the headlines and a link to the story. If you get the on-line edition of the Sentinel, or visit our web site, you might be able to make the links work right from the newsletter. If not, copy the URL and paste into your browser. Let me know how this works for you.

There's a lot going on out there. When one censor retires or graduates, another one takes his or her place, it seems.

UC San Diego Freezes Funds for 33 Media Groups, Dissolves Student TV Station, Threatens to Punish Students for Protected Speech: <http://www.thefire.org/article/11597.html>

Victory for Free Speech at Temple University As Unconstitutional Security Fee is Withdrawn; Policy Still Troubling. <http://www.thefire.org/article/11564.html>

FIRE Files Supreme Court Amicus Brief Supporting Freedom of Association in *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez* <http://www.thefire.org/article/11542.html>.

[Michigan State University Demands That Personal Opinions Stay Off Campus E-mail.](http://www.thefire.org/article/11512.html) <http://www.thefire.org/article/11512.html>

FIRE Urges Ninth Circuit To Defend First Amendment on Campus in 'Ask God What Your Grade Is' Lawsuit. <http://www.thefire.org/article/11467.html>.

Victory for Freedom of Conscience As University of Minnesota Backs Away from Ideological Screening for Ed

Students. <http://www.thefire.org/article/11420.html>

FIRE Report: Campus Speech Codes Trend Lower, but More Than 70 Percent of Colleges Restrict Free Speech. <http://www.thefire.org/article/11356.html>

AAUP analysis of the impact of the infamous Garcetti decision: <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/comm/rep/A/postgarcettireport.htm>

Victory for First Amendment on Campus: Federal Court Grants Temporary Restraining Order Against Free Speech Zone, Permitting 'Empty Holster' Protest. <http://www.thefire.org/case/806>

[The Curious 'Sexual Harassment' Charge](http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/11/04/harass) at a Georgia Community College. <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/11/04/harass>

**AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU** (As of December 2007)

Peggy Adair: "Banned Books, Black Arm-bands, and School Prayer: The Evolution of Children's First Amendment Rights in America"  
padair@tconl.com

Dwayne Ball: "Threats to Academic Freedom at Universities"  
adball@neb.rr.com

Bob Haller: "Civics Education and the Practice of Freedom" and "How Books Can Harm You: Lessons from the Censors"  
rhaller1@unl.edu

David Moshman: "Principles of Academic Freedom"  
dmoshman1@unl.edu

John Bender and David Moshman: "Student Freedom of Expression/Student Rights"  
jbender1@unl.edu  
dmoshman1@unl.edu

Laurie Thomas Lee: "Implications of the USA Patriot Act"  
llee1@unl.edu

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Presentation of the Readers' Theatre production of A Tangled Web: Student Freedom of Expression

(a cast of adults and students)

**ADDRESS FOR THE AFCON WEB SITE**

**<http://www.nebafcon.org>**

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**Check it out and learn Who We Are and about Our Activities; read our Constitution; learn how to Join Us; see the where and when of our Meetings; meet our Members and Officers;  
Study our Publications, Principles, and Statements**

**REQUEST FOR NEWS FOR FUTURE ISSUES**

The editor of the AFCON SENTINEL invites all AFCON individual and organizational members to send news about academic freedom issues in Nebraska or editorial comments for inclusion in this newsletter and/or announcements of organizational meetings for the UPCOMING EVENTS column.

**Due date for submissions to the June 18, 2010, issue is May 24, 2010.**

Send to Tom Black, editor, 610 West Park, West Point, NE 68788 or wpc6296@cableone.net

# AFCON

515 North Thomas Avenue  
Oakland, NE 68045.

Mailing  
Address  
Label

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## ACADEMIC FREEDOM COALITION OF NEBRASKA

### HELP AFCON PROMOTE ACADEMIC FREEDOM

As a member of AFCON, you can help us

- ◆ support applications of the First Amendment in academic contexts, including elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and libraries.
- ◆ educate Nebraskans about the meaning and value of intellectual freedom, intellectual diversity, mutual respect, open communication, and uninhibited pursuit of knowledge, including the role of these ideals in academic contexts and in democratic self-government.
- ◆ assist students, teachers, librarians, and researchers confronted with censorship, indoctrination, or suppression of ideas.
- ◆ act as liaison among groups in Nebraska that support academic freedom.

**MEMBERSHIP** (To become a member, send dues, organization or individual name, address, and phone number to Cathi McMurtry, 515 N. Thomas Avenue, Oakland, NE 68045)

**Organizational Membership** (\$120) entitles the organization to one seat on the AFCON Board, one vote in the election of officers and at the annual meeting, eligibility for office and chairing standing committees, provides newsletter subscription for the board member to share with the organization's information director, and reduced rates to AFCON conferences for its members.

**Individual Membership** (\$15) provides newsletter subscription, eligibility for office and for chairing standing committees, reduced rates for AFCON conferences, and one vote at annual meetings.

**Student Membership** (\$5) entitles full-time students to the same privileges as provided by the Individual Membership.

**AFCON ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS, PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR MEMBERS.  
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND AFTER YOU HAVE READ IT.  
ENCOURAGE HIM OR HER TO JOIN AFCON**