The AFCON Sentinel

Newsletter of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

Volume 30, Number 5
October 2026

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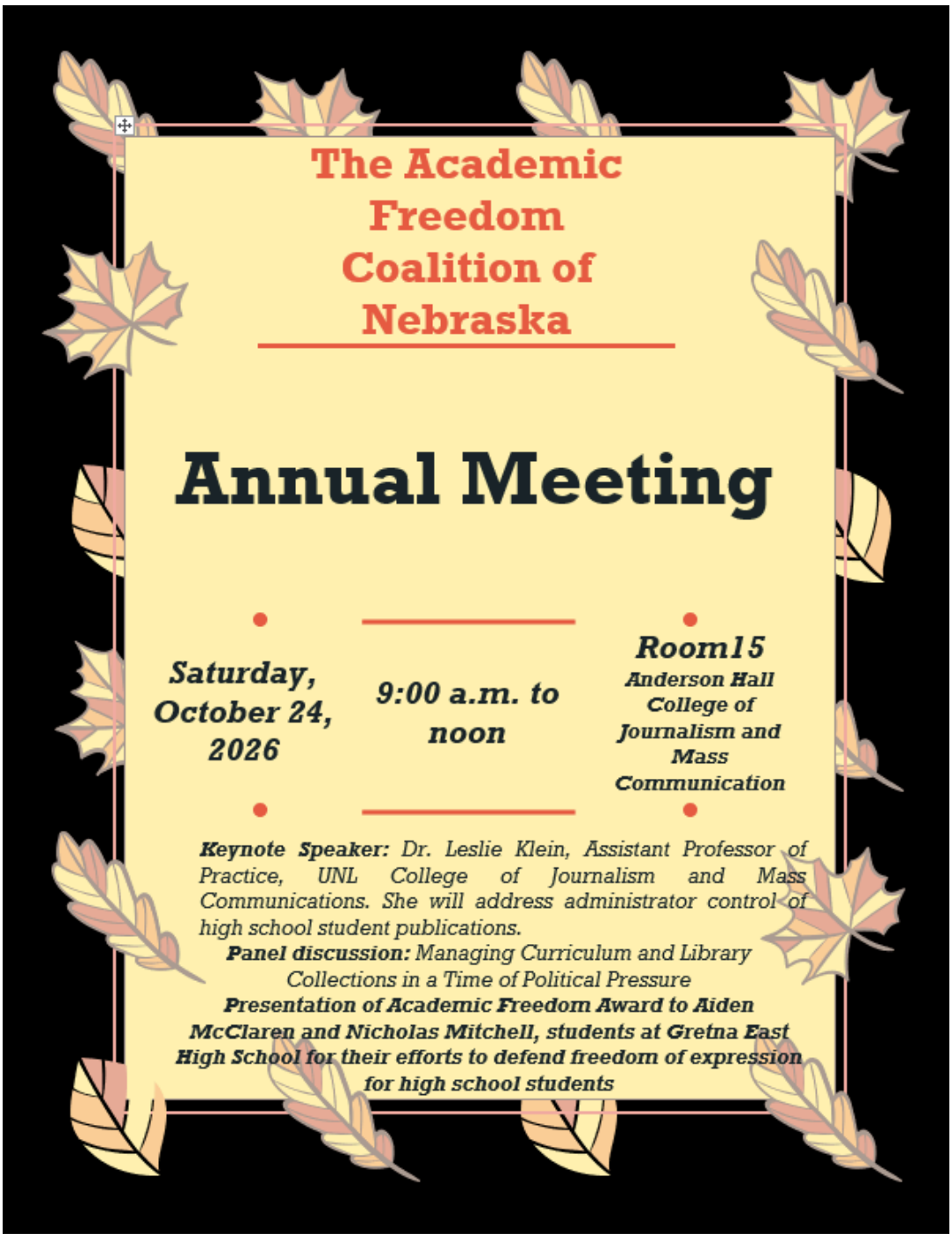

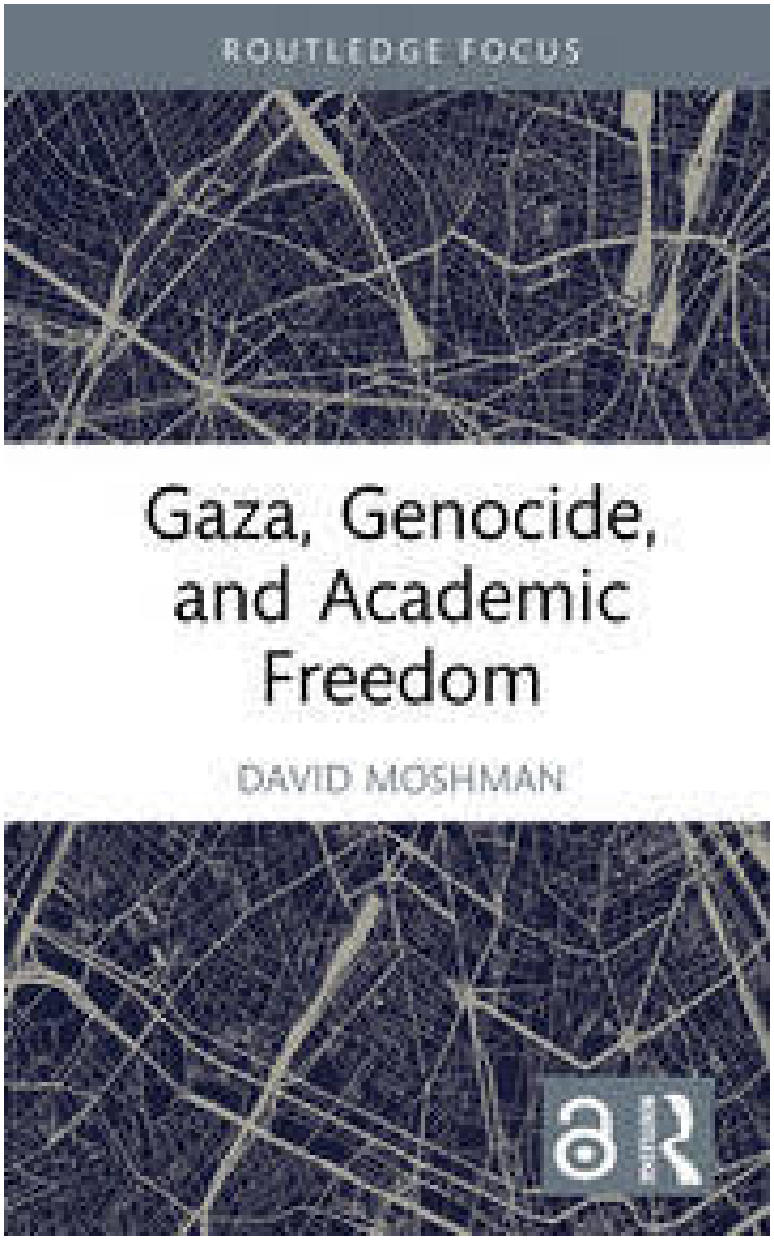

David Moshman is AFCON's policy coordinator. The eBook version of David Moshman's *Gaza, Genocide, and Academic Freedom* is now available free as an open access publication. It can be read online or downloaded onto a computer or other device from the Routledge (Taylor & Francis) website: https://www.routledge.com/Gaza-Genocide-and-Academic-Freedom/Moshman/p/book/9781041166924

AFCON

www.academicfreedomnebraska.org

The Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska was founded in 1988 to promote intellectual freedom in Nebraska education and research, including freedoms of belief and expression and access to information and ideas.

AFCON Board of Directors

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Regina Werum

From the AFCON Constitution, Article I:
The purpose of AFCON shall be to promote academic freedom in Nebraska, defined as intellectual freedom in educational and research contexts. This includes freedoms of belief and expression and access to information and ideas. In pursuit of this general goal, AFCON shall:

1. Support application of the First Amendment in academic contexts, including schools, colleges, universities, and libraries.

2. Educate Nebraskans in and out of Academic settings, citizens and professionals, parents and students 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.

3. Assist students, teachers, librarians, researchers, and others confronted with censorship, indoctrination, or suppression of information or ideas in academic settings.

4. Act as liaison among groups in the State of Nebraska that support academic freedom.

JOIN OR RENEW
Rod Wagner, Treasurer

If you are interested in defending and expanding academic freedom in Nebraska, we welcome you or your organization as a member of AFCON. Annual dues are $120 for institutions, $15 for individuals, and $5 for students. Individual life memberships are available for $150. You can pay by visiting our website at https://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org/

Memberships and donations can also be made by check (payable to AFCON). Send check to AFCON Treasurer, 3901 S. 27th St.,#47, Lincoln NE 68502.

Organizational members are entitled to a representative on the AFCON board. We also have at-large board members. You may express your interest to the president to be considered for appointment to the board.

Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska
Board of Directors Meeting
Via Videoconference

September 12, 2026

Present:
Peggy Adair, secretary, legislative liaison
John Bartle, representing UNO Faculty Senate
John Bender, president, representing UNL Faculty Senate
Nancy Comer, representing
Bob Haller, director at large
Laurie Thomas Lee, president-elect, representing American Civil Liberties Union, Nebraska
Dave Moshman, policy coordinator
Lila Padios, representing The Write Stuff
Vicki Wood, editor-in-chief, director at large

MINUTES

President John Bender called the meeting to order at 10:26 a.m.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Moshman, second by Wood, to approve minutes of the AFCON board meeting held on July 11, 2026. Motion carried on a voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Wagner reported via email balance on hand as of September 11, 2026, is $4,477.87.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: Comer reported the board was considering changing the social studies curriculum for public schools. Comer reported the board received a lot of negative input from stakeholders. The board vote was evenly split, so the present social studies curriculum will remain in place.

SENTINEL: Deadline for the October issue of the Sentinel is September 26. Wood thanked Moshman for editing the August issue of the Sentinel.

ANNUAL MEETING: The 2026 AFCON annual meeting will be a joint meeting with The Write Stuff and will be held on October 24, 2026, at Anderson Hall on the UNL campus. Zoom access will be available.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Bender appointed the following board members to serve on the committee to nominate 2027 AFCON officers: Chair Laurie Thomas Lee, John Bartle, and Regina Werum.

NEXT MEETING: The next AFCON board meeting will be Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Lee will chair the meeting in Bender's absence.

There being no further business, the AFCON board meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Adair

The AFCON Sentinel is the newsletter of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska, published bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Unless otherwise indicated, articles represent the views of the authors. All issues of the AFCON Sentinel are available here: https://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org/the sentinel.html