



THE

AFCON

SENTINEL



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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—Robert Haller

Advocates of Academic Freedom have to hope that in public debate everyone appreciates the difference between two kinds of research, the kind that arises when there are conditions of academic freedom and the kind which is paid for by, for instance, a company wishing to license and sell a product, or by a political party or candidate wanting to substantiate a personally advantageous position, or by what we call these days a Think Tank.

To see the difference, go to the web site <cato.org>. There you will see that the Cato Foundation claims to be a “public policy research foundation” devoted to “traditional American principles of limited government, individual liberty, free markets and peace.” It commissions (that is, contracts to pay for) “[b]ooks, monographs, briefing papers and shorter studies” which will “examine issues in nearly every corner of the public policy debate.” In other words, it finds scholars willing to support its positions for a price.

I’m a very traditional American, certainly favoring individual liberty and limiting government encroachment on it, all for peace, and in some ways favoring “free markets” (that is, anti-trust laws and fair trade policies). But I am quite certain that the Cato Institute understands these principles in the interpretation most favorable to

those who paid to support the Institute.

They would certainly not commission a professor specializing in American intellectual history to certify if those principles are indeed “traditional” and, if so, how they would affect current policy. That the benefactors of the Institute already know, and those who produce its publications know what positions will bring in the money. They are hired, not to discover the truth, but to find evidence in support of a specific political agenda.

Similarly, the current national administration (with many precedents, but in an unprecedented number of cases) hires persons to write scientific reports supporting their policy decisions. The existence of so-called “global warming” is not certain; stem cell research kills babies; tax cuts generate revenue and keep the economy strong; invading distant countries makes them democratic. But the university and the disciplines in the university operate on different principles.

Their research is sometimes sponsored. But the funding is based on peer evaluation of its methods and the degree to which it can plausibly be completed with the available resources. Research which claimed to support a specific favored policy would be rejected out of hand. Any

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Upcoming Events

AFCON Board Meetings, April 8, 2006, at Gere 56th and Normal Blvd.
May 13 and June 11, 2006, at Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior,
All in Lincoln, Nebraska, at 10 AM

THE PRESIDENT—Robert Haller

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research which had as its goal to prove the virtues of a current or proposed policy would have to be set up so as potentially to disprove them.

I don't mean to pick on the Cato Institute; they are seriously non-partisan, and attack Bush as vigorously as they disagree with those they call liberals. I do mean to pick on the current Administration which is more assertively dismissive of research and scholarship than any in my lifetime.

What I do mean to say is that, in either case, both the Think Tanks and the administration are working hard to smear

Universities as their equivalent, as institutions paying their professors to support a set of policies. They want to make professors as venal and self-interested as they are. The claim supposes that professors are ideologues seeking, not truth, not new knowledge and new perspectives, but confirmation of a political or cultural position.

Interestingly, this attack is very "post-modern" in the popular sense of that term. It assumes that knowledge is infinitely malleable, a social construction which claims "truth" for a personally pleasurable or profitable conclusion derived through biased and

interested methods which could have produced an opposite result if it suited the researcher.

This same understanding of research assumes that teaching is indoctrination and students should be graded on their principles, not on their discipline and creativity. It encourages a public discourse of personal attack and the assertion of arbitrary beliefs pretending to be facts. It creates students who believe that they are entitled to be taught the facts which support their prejudices and that the disciplines of research need not be mastered if they can make enough noise without them.

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors'

December 10, 2005—

Present: Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Karen Buckley, Joanne Chapuran, Nancy Comer, Bob Haller, Ben Keele; Mel Krutz, Cathi McMurtry, Dave Moshman, Doug Paterson, Mary Reiman, Lisa M. Voss.

Opening: Moshman opened the meeting at 10:14 a.m. Lisa Voss represented the Nebraska Library Association for Jodene Glaesemann.

Minutes: (Buckley) Minutes of the October 8 and November 5 meetings were distributed and approved..

Treasurer: (McMurtry) The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$868.87, with 34 individual and 15 organizational members in good standing. And was approved. Since the annual meeting was more expensive than usual, McMurtry suggested lunch be increased from \$10 for next year's annual meeting and that someone had suggested charging \$20 and including dessert. Also noted was the fact that approved expenditures for Banned Book Week included several items that could be distributed with AFCON materials

or reused for future observances.

Newsletter: (Black) The December AFCON Sentinel is ready to be mailed.

Election of officers: (Haller) He will send mail ballots for the 2006 officers with the December newsletter.

President's report: (Moshman) Moshman has distributed an updated roster of AFCON board members.

Following up on last month's item regarding the UNL students expelled from the UNL-OU football game for standing up and displaying "OKLAHOMOS" on themselves, Moshman reported there has been no further action and AFCON could consider the "non-academic freedom" issue matter settled.

A Lincoln author who felt that his book and manuscripts had wrongfully disappeared from the Heritage Room of the Bennett Martin Library had contacted AFCON for assistance. Moshman said the matter seemed to be more an administrative issue rather than an academic freedom issue. The book has been returned to the author/donor and the manuscripts were apparently destroyed.

Following up on the Michael Baker case, Moshman distributed copies of the letter he drafted in support of Baker's methodology in teaching U.S. History. The letter will be sent to Dr. Marilyn Moore, LPS associate superintendent of instruction, with copies also sent to: Michael Baker, Mary Beth Lehmanowsky, Barbara Jacobson, Karen Stanley, Susan Gourley, and the LPS Board of Education.

Student Press Legislation: (Chapuran) She said high school journalism advisors seem reluctant to speak out or work for a free speech amendment (to bypass the Hazelwood court ruling, an action several states have done). She feels that Omaha Central seems to be the only area high school willing to publish controversial issues. Ball thought colleges might be more inclined to assist with this than high school advisors, whose jobs might more easily be jeopardized. Moshman thought AFCON should contact the Nebraska Collegiate Media Association for its thoughts. Ball suggested a brainstorming session, including former AF

(Continued to Page 3)

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings (Continued from Page 2)

CON member John Bender and possibly principals or superintendents, members of the Unicameral, and State Board of Education. Adair thought 2007 would be a realistic target date for legislation on student freedom of the press and that this topic might be part of the 2006 AFCON annual meeting. Paterson, Haller, Ball, Chapuran and Adair volunteered to head the brainstorming session.

Other Cases/Issues: The case of the high school student in Kansas City who was suspended for speaking Spanish in school was mentioned. A lack of information about the situation limited discussion.

Membership Reports: Comer said that the topic for Nebraska Reading Association's state meeting Feb. 16 in Kearney was "Academic Freedom: The 'P' words" (including policy, purpose, preview, purchase, etc.).

Plans for 2006: As discussed in Student Press Legislation, AFCON plans to pursue a student press freedom amendment.

January 7, 2006—

Present: Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Karen Buckley, Jim Bunstock, Joanne Chapuran, Nancy Comer, Jodene Glaesemann, Bob Haller, Dick Herman, Ben Keele; Mel Krutz, Laurie Thomas Lee, Cathi McMurtry, Dave Moshman, Doug Paterson, Guest: John Bender..

Opening: President-elect Paterson opened the meeting at 10:09 a.m. and presided until the arrival of president Bob Haller.

Minutes: (Buckley) Minutes of the board meeting were distributed and approved.

Changes to Agenda: The UNL Student Advocates for Academic Freedom is inactive at present, because the group's president, Catherine Witt, is spending spring semester in Spain. Moshman proposed the group's cofounder and AFCON representative with Witt, Ben Keele, be appointed as a member at large to AFCON. Approved.

Treasurer's report: (McMurtry) The treasurer's report showed a bal-

ance of \$716.96. The treasurer's report was approved, amended to show 40 individual members and 17 organizational members. McMurtry raised the question of adjusting mileage rates paid by AFCON. Ball/Adair made a motion to pay \$.22 a mile. Approved.

Student Press Legislation: Haller then introduced John Bender, UNL professor, former AFCON president and representative of the Nebraska High School Press Association, who gave members a review of previous attempts to have the Student Freedom of Information Act passed, protecting student freedom of the press. AFCON and Bender had assisted the NHSPA's efforts in promoting the Student Freedom of Information Act. The Board discussed the history and effects of the Hazelwood case as applied to academic freedom in public secondary and university environments.

Legislative Report: (Adair) Adair distributed information on Legislative Bills before the 99th Legislature as of Jan. 12, which might be of special interest to AFCON.

President's report: (Haller) Haller intends to encourage science and social studies teachers and teaching associations to join AFCON.

Membership Reports: Glaesemann noted that the Nebraska Library Association's Legislative Day is February 14. Krutz distributed a letter reviewing 2005 events of the Nebraska Center for The Book and invited AFCON members to join NCB-- "the price and benefits are right." Baritone Thomas Hampson, on a Library of Congress tour, is scheduled to come to Omaha May 30. Watch for publicity on this event.

Haller is resigning as representative for the AAUP-UNL chapter in the hope of having a new representative appointed. Paterson said that the UNO Faculty is still awaiting a report on the Afghan studies program.

February 11, 2006—

Present: Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Karen Buckley, Jim Bunstock, Joanne Chapuran, Nancy Comer, Jodene Glaesemann, Bob Haller, Dick

Hermann, Ben Keele, Laurie Thomas Lee, Cathi McMurtry, Dave Moshman, Mary Reiman.

Minutes: (Buckley) Minutes of the Jan. 14 board meeting were distributed and approved.

Treasurer's report: (McMurtry) The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1126.96, with 19 individual members and four organizational members current with dues. The treasurer's report was approved.

President's report: (Haller) Haller has sent e-mails regarding AFCON memberships to the Nebraska Academy of Science and the Nebraska Council of Social Studies. He has a membership packet prepared for the Academic Senate at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Legislative Report: (Adair) Adair distributed handouts on bills before the 99th Legislature which might be of special interest to AFCON and provided updates on the status of some of these bills. She will testify on LB124, in a neutral position and will introduce an amendment for student free expression to that bill. She requested that AFCON member organizations use their individual letterheads to send letters in support of this bill. Ball proposed, seconded by Chapuran, a resolution endorsing this amendment and Adair's testimony. The resolution passed after amending the amendment to remove "false" in the statement prohibiting "expression which is false, libelous, slanderous or defamatory under state law," in the belief that the word was not needed.

Moshman moved that AFCON authorize Haller to testify against LB 1211 "if he so chooses." Adair seconded the motion, which was then approved by the board members.

Membership Reports:

Chapuran (NHSPA) reported that feelers to NHSPA members regarding a student free expression amendment to the Nebraska Constitution indicated much bitterness remains among members from a "heartbreaking" failure to have the Unicameral enact this amendment in previous attempts.

A NEW LOOK AT HAZELWOOD

PRESS RELEASE: Supreme Court announces it will not hear appeal in college censorship case. February 21, 2006

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Supreme Court announced this morning that it will not hear a case that questioned the authority of administrators at an Illinois university to censor a student newspaper that published articles critical of the school.

The Court rejected a request by former student journalists at Governors State University in Illinois to review a lower court decision that could give university officials in three Midwestern states the authority to censor some college student speech based on a legal standard that had previously been applied only to high school and elementary school students and teachers.

The Court's ruling lets stand a June 2005 decision by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that could open the door to providing university administrators with authority to censor school-sponsored speech by public college students and faculty, including speech in some student newspapers, at schools in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

The appeals court ruled that the Supreme Court's 1988 decision in *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, which has been used to restrict the First Amendment rights of elementary and high school students and teachers, applied to colleges and universities as well. The appeals court decision was in stark contrast to over three decades of law that has provided strong free speech protection to college student journalists and protected them from censorship by school officials unhappy with what student media published.

By refusing to hear the case, the Court lets stand the extension to colleges of a censorship standard it created to oversee speech by students as young as five years old. The 7th Circuit's decision is only binding in three states and is in direct conflict with decisions of other state and federal courts around the country.

"The appeals court decision last year turned on its head the traditional belief that a university is a 'marketplace of ideas' where speech from all sides is not only tolerated, but encouraged. We hoped that the Supreme Court would step in to reaffirm that important principle," said Mark Goodman, executive director of the Student Press Law Center. "We are very disappointed that the Court left that issue to be decided another day."

A group of 15 national student and professional news media organizations led by the Student Press Law Center filed a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of the students in October urging the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case, and warning that the 7th Circuit's decision posed a threat to free speech on America's college and university campuses. Similar briefs were filed by groups of journalism educators and civil rights

organizations.

Today's ruling comes more than five years after a dean at Governors State University demanded that she or another university official be allowed to read and approve the student newspaper, the *Innovator*, prior to publication. The newspaper's student editors, who had published stories and editorials critical of the administration, refused the administrator's demands. The *Innovator* has not been published since.

Legal experts point out that although today's decision may encourage more efforts by college administrators to censor, the lower court's decision still recognizes that college student publications can be established in a way that gives students strong First Amendment protections.

The Student Press Law Center is encouraging students in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin to call upon their schools to pledge their commitment to free speech by explicitly designating their student media as "public forums" where student editors have the right to make editorial decisions free from administrative interference. Since the appeals court decision in June, a small number of schools in the 7th Circuit have done so, but it is expected that others will follow as student and faculty groups demand such action. (See <http://www.splc.org/publicforumcolleges> for details.)

"This ruling changes the playing field. People in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin who care about free expression need to take steps today to defend a free student press if they want to ensure a free press will be around tomorrow," Goodman said.

Goodman said it is important to make clear that today's ruling leaves free expression protection limited only in the three states of the 7th Circuit. The strong First Amendment protection afforded the college student press by courts in the rest of the country remains unchanged, he says.

"This battle is far from over," he said. "By refusing to take this case, the Supreme Court has postponed the legal conclusion for another day. But the Student Press Law Center stands ready to help college student journalists at any school in the country who find their right to publish freely under attack. We will not hesitate to take other schools to court in defense of student press freedom."

The Student Press Law Center (www.splc.org) is a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization established in 1974 to promote and preserve the free expression rights of student journalists.

Mark Goodman, Executive Director,
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Arlington, VA 22209-2275
Phone: (703) 807-1904
E-mail: director@splc.org; Web site: www.splc.org

AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU (As of December 2004)

Dwayne Ball: "Threats to Academic Freedom at Universities"
adball@alltel.net

Linda Beckstead: "Freedom of Student Press Issues"
BecksteadL@aol.com

Bob Haller: "Free the Students! Why Higher Education Needs a New Movement" and "How Books Can Harm You: Lessons of 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"
bender@unl.edu
dmoshman1@unl.edu

Mark Weddleton and Laurie Thomas Lee: "Implications of the USA Patriot Act"
mark@weddleton.com
llee1@unl.edu

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.AFCONebr.org>

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

FOR SALE BY AFCON

Note cards with a Paul Fell design; \$1.50; four for \$5.00. Packaging and postage: \$0.75 per packet.

Reader's Theatre Script (a booklet) of a TANGLED ISSUE: Student Freedom of Expression.
\$10.00 buys the book with full duplication and production rights.

Packaging and postage: \$3.00 each.

Send orders to Mel Krutz, 2625 Bluff Road, Seward, NE 68434-9801

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 12, 2006**, issue is **May 22, 2006**.

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

UNIVERSITY REPORTS—Dwayne Ball

My sources are the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (CHE), the newsletters of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE.), and various newspapers and other sources as noted.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH ON CAMPUS

Tariq Khan, an Air Force veteran and student at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., protested military recruiters on campus using leaflets. Within 30 minutes he was attacked by a fellow student and his "Recruiters Lie" leaflets were taken from him. The altercation resulted not in the arrest of his attacker, but in the arrest of Mr. Khan. GMU has an unconstitutional policy that all printed materials must be reviewed before distribution on campus. The ACLU of Virginia is preparing his lawsuit. (FIRE e-mail, 11/17/2005)

The University of Pennsylvania attempted to severely discipline a student who posted pictures on a non-university Internet site of two other students having sex while standing in a high-rise dormitory window. Other photographers also took pictures and posted them on Internet sites, but one student was caught. The student was defended by others who considered the event to be a public show, seen by many people, and who also point out that the students in the window cannot be identified from the photos. Under public pressure, the University dropped the charges and the punishment. (FIRE e-mails 12/1 and 12/5/2005)

A Muslim student employee at William Paterson University (WPU) in New Jersey, Jihad Daniel, 63, objected to homosexuality as a perversion, in a private e-mail to a WPU professor. The professor had advertised by e-mail, campus-wide, a gay film and discussion. Daniel's e-mail asked to be excluded from future mailings because he objected to homosexuality as "perversion" on religious grounds. Daniel was then officially

reprimanded for using the word "perversion," his supervisor contending it constituted harassment. After negative publicity generated by FIRE, and a union hearing that cleared him, the reprimand was dropped from his file. (FIRE e-mail 12/7/2005)

Washington State University in Pullman, WA, was the site last year of a remarkable event – the university-sponsored heckling of a controversial student play, the *Passion of the Musical*. The university's diversity director took exception to the play, which was advertised as politically incorrect and offensive, and bought 40 tickets for students using university funds. Those students then heckled the play and threatened violence to the cast in order to stop it. University Police were called but did nothing. After severe negative publicity generated by FIRE, and a strong negative public reaction, WSU has now reversed itself. A new, offensive play by the same playwright is now explicitly protected by the university from hecklers.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro has established two small areas on campus as "free speech zones." Forty-eight hour notice is required of any event to take place in those zones. Everywhere, and everywhere else on campus, one must have the permission of the university to utter opinions, apparently. Two students led a rally in front of the library to protest the speech zones, and were charged with violations. Under pressure from FIRE, UNC-Greensboro has dropped the charges and agreed to review its policy. (FIRE e-mails 12/15/2005 and 1/17/2005)

DePaul University of Chicago, a private Catholic institution, refused to allow the College Republicans to peacefully protest the visit of Ward Churchill of the University of Colorado. The CR wanted to post flyers

with Churchill's own words on them, prior to his visit. This was prohibited under a remarkably vague university speech code that prevents the distribution of "propaganda." Not believing that the man's own words could be considered propaganda if the university was inviting him to speak, the CR posted the flyers anyway. The CR was banned from attending the Churchill event. Under pressure and negative publicity generated by FIRE, DePaul repealed the speech code and re-asserted its commitment to free speech. (FIRE e-mails 12/21/2005 and 1/8./2006)

However, within a month, DePaul was back at it. The DePaul Conservative Alliance organized an "affirmative action bake sale," which (like gender bake sales by feminist groups) charges people different prices for baked goods based on their demographic categories. In this case, the DCA wished to protest discriminatory admissions policies that favored minorities. DePaul closed down the bake sale and charged the students with racial harassment. In late February, after considerable negative publicity by FIRE, they were acquitted of the harassment charge and convicted on a lesser charge of failing to disclose that they intended to poke fun at affirmative action with the bake sale.. (FIRE e-mail 1/30/2006 and 2/20/06)

The American Association of University Women has published a controversial report claiming that 62% of university women have been sexually harassed. Readers of the report, however, have noted that the AAUW's definition of sexual harassment includes a considerable proportion of constitutionally-protected free expression: "any unwanted 'sexual comments, jokes, gestures, or looks.'" The US Department of Education, however, defines sexual harassment as conduct "so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability

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University reports—Continued from Page 6)

to participate in or benefit from an education program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment," a definition that is far narrower and more likely to be constitutional. Under the DOE definition, one presumes, the problem of sexual harassment would appear far less urgent, perhaps taking the wind out of the AAUW sails. (FIRE e-mail 1/26/2006)

UNIVERSITY STUDENT PRESS FREEDOM

The Daily Illini, the student newspaper at the University of Illinois, has fired its student editor-in-chief and opinion page editor, by order of the university administration. The Daily Illini published 6 of those 12 cartoons depicting the prophet Mohammed, originally printed by a newspaper in Denmark, that have generated so much resentment amongst Muslims. As of this writing, the argument is raging hot and heavy on campus. (New York Times, 2/17/2006)

INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS

The South Dakota house of representatives has passed a law (HR 1222) requiring all public colleges to report annually on the extent to which they foster intellectual diversity, defined as "the foundation of a learning environment that exposes students to a variety of political, ideological, and other perspectives." The State Senate is expected to pass the bill in late February, which would make it law. (CHE 2/9/2006)

ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN CAMPUS LIBRARIES

Brandeis University Library director Kathy Glick-Weil is now a heroine

to her colleagues. She faced down FBI agents who wanted to take away 30 library computers for investigation, without a warrant. An e-mail threatening a bomb on campus had apparently come from a library public computer, and the FBI response was to rush to the library and demand to take all the machines. Glick-Weil refused, and made the agents work with Brandeis IT personnel to narrow down the source machine of the e-mail, and then get a warrant. In the end, only 3 computers were removed – legally. (CHE 2/4/2006)

ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN THE CLASSROOM

The University of Kansas was to have a new course taught this Spring, "Special Topics in Religion: Intelligent Design, Creationism and other Religious Mythologies." The professor, Paul Mirecki, was quoted in an e-mail as saying it would be a "nice slap in their big fat face" to Christian fundamentalists who believed in intelligent design. He later apologized for those comments. He was also later beaten up by two men on a lonely road who made reference to the course. Dr. Mirecki, while convalescing, cancelled the class. (The Wichita Eagle, 12/6/2005)

LeMoyne College dismissed education graduate student Scott McConnell last year for advocating corporal punishment of public school students, the Education dean asserting that his attitudes were inappropriate. McConnell sued with the help of FIRE and the Center for Individual Rights, and won his case. The College received a tongue-lashing from the judge for using politics, not competence, to judge students. The court demanded Mr. McConnell's re-instatement by LeMoyne, and LeMoyne has complied. (FIRE e-mail 1/19/2006 and CHE 1/23/2006)

The UCLA Bruin Alumni Association (started by a 2003 graduate) has offered a \$100 bounty to students who report political bias and indoctrination attempts by UCLA professors in the classroom.

The organization has created a web site, UCLAProf.com, dedicated to exposing classroom bias. (CHE 1/19/2006)

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION ON CAMPUS

Under threat of a lawsuit, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has suspended its ban on the practice of student resident associates (dormitory supervisors) leading prayer meetings and other activities. (FIRE e-mail 12/1/2005)

A suit brought by the US Department of Justice against several law colleges that refused to allow military recruiters on campus, citing the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy with respect to homosexuality as discrimination, has been settled in US District Court in favor of the military. (Omaha World-Herald 12/7/2005)

FACULTY EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Law schools may soon be required by the American Bar Association's accreditation authority to show that they have taken concrete steps to racially and ethnically diversify their faculty, staff, and student body. Law schools that fail to do so can be de-accredited, even if state laws prevent them from using race or ethnicity in hiring and admissions. To go into effect, the policy requires approval by the ABA's House of Delegates, which meets in August, 2006. (CHE 2/14/2006)

NON-DISCRIMINATION IN STUDENT ADMISSIONS AND FUNDING

Southern Illinois University collapsed under pressure from a lawsuit filed against it by the US Department of Justice over race-exclusive scholarships and fellowships. In a landmark agreement, SIU has eliminated race exclusivity from all scholarships and aid programs (CHE 2/10/2006)

AFCON

515 North Thomas Avenue
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Mailing
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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 (\$100) entitles the organization to one seat on the AFCON Board and one vote in the election of officers and at the annual meeting, and eligibility for office and chairing standing committees and 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 (\$10) 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**