

Bodkin, Charles

From: UNCGA - Active Collab [activecollab@northcarolina.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 03, 2010 11:30 AM
To: Bodkin, Charles
Subject: [Faculty Assembly (All Delegates)] New comment on 'Faculty Senate Academic Freedom Resolution' Discussion has been posted {ID12824}

-- REPLY ABOVE THIS LINE --

Hi,

Catherine Rigsby has replied to Faculty Senate Academic Freedom Resolution Discussion:

I posted the most up-to-date version in the activecollab site. (I have also attached it to this message.)

In response to an earlier question, I think it is important to note that the resolution itself does not require any changes to the Code. It simply asks that we (as a system) acknowledge a detailed definition of academic freedom and that we consider changing the code to incorporate that definition.

Having the faculty of the system adopt this definition is a very important first step. It is not something that administrations need to be afraid of. After all, they (the administration) have all the power. In the end, they can refuse to change the Code at all. But, even if they do, it is important that faculty restart/verify/clarify the importance of academic freedom in our institutions of higher learning. To me, this is what this resolution is about. If we can get GA and faculty together to make some changes to the Code, that would be awesome, but it is not what this resolution is doing. We are simply adopting a clear definition of academic freedom and asking that "the system" do so as well. And, with our individual campus resolutions, we are asking that we get a group around a table to discuss the possibility of making minor change to the Code.

This explanation (which I may have presented better in person!) was instrumental in getting the ECU attorney (and the administrators that she advises) to understand that this first step is important to faculty, that the resolution is a simple one, that the Code recommendations are simply a starting point for discussion (not part of the resolution), and that the resolution itself is non-detrimental to the status quo as she/they sees it.

Baby steps . .

Catherine

From: UNCGA - Active Collab [mailto:activecollab@northcarolina.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 03, 2010 10:54 AM
To: Rigsby, Catherine
Subject: [Faculty Assembly (All Delegates)] New comment on 'Faculty Senate Academic Freedom Resolution' Discussion has been posted {ID12824}

-- REPLY ABOVE THIS LINE --

Hi,

Bodkin, Charles

From: UNCGA - Active Collab [activecollab@northcarolina.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 03, 2010 7:06 PM
To: Bodkin, Charles
Subject: [Faculty Assembly (All Delegates)] New comment on 'Faculty Senate Academic Freedom Resolution' Discussion has been posted {ID12824}

-- REPLY ABOVE THIS LINE --

Hi,

Sandie Gravett has replied to Faculty Senate Academic Freedom Resolution Discussion:

I have been on the road to Boone today and do not have much more to add, but here is why I think it is important. As Catherine indicated, we must have the conversation. Garcetti may not be meant to apply to higher education, but as we all know, it is not a sure thing. I do not see this resolution as emerging from any place other than the need to have, in light of what the Supreme Court has said about public employees, a serious conversation about academic freedom. We all know that we live in times where anything a professor says or does can be broadcast around the world instantly. We know that in austere times, there will be pressure to have more corporate and private money on campuses that may be quite positive, or, in some cases, come with difficult strings attached and faculty will often have things to say about such strings. And we understand that we increasingly rely on contingent faculty who do not have all of the protections of tenure in their teaching, but who still often push important boundaries. We need to be vigilant with regard to the place of academic freedom on a university campus in cases such as these and many others. Public employees need the right to speak out, even when what they say is not the "party line." That is what keeps institutions healthy. And, as indicated, our language about code changes is no more than a suggestion to drive conversation.

One of the things I like most about this resolution is that it is not reactive to a given incident, but proactive in terms of asking all of the players to engage in thinking through a principle that is at the heart of the university as the university and its constitution is changing. What we know as the university will not look the same in years to come and so keeping these questions alive is every bit as important as legislative priorities, budget, and furloughs. It is about who we are fundamentally.

I hope Charlotte and other campuses will take a serious look at it and the faculty will reach an independent decision about how they want to proceed.

I stand ready to help as needed.

[Click here](#) to see the comment. Faculty Senate Academic Freedom Resolution Discussion details: