



FIRE is a nonprofit educational foundation devoted to free speech, individual liberty, religious freedom, the rights of conscience, legal equality, due process, and academic freedom on our nation's campuses.

Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

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January 14, 2003

To: Andrea Kiser
From: Committee on Student Organizations, C.O.S.O

Re: Advocates for Conservative Thought

Dear Ms. Kiser

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of your organization, Advocates for Conservative Thought. The Committee on Student Organizations is appreciative of the opportunity to explain the reasoning behind denying your club "student organization" status at the University of Miami.

In response to your first question, all the necessary paperwork was filed with COSO and the required steps were taken for organization approval. Therefore, your organization was not denied for a lack of proper paperwork.

After careful consideration and discussion, the Committee believes that the Advocates for Conservative Thought overlap with the role that the College Republicans and the Council for Democracy already play on campus. As stated in your constitution one of your objectives is to "advocate for conservative ideas through aiding conservative candidates and issues via forums, recruitment, meetings and political action." However, the committee feels that this objective is already being serviced by the College Republicans, which has both liberal and conservative speakers and supports both views at meetings and forums. We also feel that your organization has a political orientation that is similar to that of the College Republicans.

If what you are looking for is a nonpartisan forum for conservative



Read excerpts from *The Shadow University* by Alan Charles Kors & Harvey A. Silverglate.

views on campus, then the Council for Democracy is your next resource. The Council stresses both liberal and conservative ideas through forums and meetings.

According to the authority granted the Committee on Student Organizations by the Vice President of Student Affairs for the University of Miami, COSO has the ability to deny a student group “student organization” status at the University if there is another student organization that already serves the same purpose on campus. This is done to stop duplicate student groups from forming and to preserve the limited financial resources that student groups can draw from stresses both liberaresrganilwoulde tks donadvthe rces t



Read *Thought Reform 101* by Alan Charles Kors.



Read *Memo to Free Speech Advocates University of Wisconsin-Madison* by Harvey A. Silverglate.

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