

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 20, 2003

To: Committee on Student Organizations From: Andrea Kiser and Sarah Canale

Re: Advocates for Conservative Thought (ACT)

ENCLOSED: Constitution for ACT and formal proposal

We would first like to thank the Committee on Student Organizations for getting back to us and explaining your reasoning. Advocates for Conservative Thought would like to affirm your explanations in part and point out vital clarifications in part.

We would like to point out a large disparity in material fact between the reasoning outlined in your January 14th letter and what we tangibly and unequivocally demonstrated. In the letter signed by co-chair Valerie Figueredo, COSO states, "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." This was sited as the leading cause for our overlap with the College Republicans.

However, the highlighted statement is *not anywhere* within the Advocates for Conservative Thought (ACT) Constitution and consequently cannot and does not apply to ACT. The statement used was within another group's constitution: the Conservative Advocacy and Action Club – that group was rejected for an overlap with the College Republicans. It must be pointed out that we are not inquiring into COSO's rejection of the Conservative Advocacy and Action Club (CAA). We are only inquiring into ACT's rejection. While CAA did have similar membership and similar proponents, the purpose of that first group was totally different than Foundation for Individual Rights in Education: Issues



Read excerpts from The Shadow University

by Alan Charles Kors & Harvey A. Silverglate.



Read *Thought Reform 101* by Alan Charles Kors.



Read *Memo to Free* Speech Advocates University of Wisconsin-Madison by Harvey A. Found,scocn campus – the purpose that we are referring to is within ACT's constitution.

To make your referencing easier, we will enclose a copy of ACT's formal proposal and constitution that was submitted to COSO, with highlighting on the quoted portions of the constitution. We are requesting two things at this point. A response to this letter from your organization affirming the facts pointed out in this letter. We are also requesting that in light of this development – ACT be granted full approval by COSO. Since COSO's reasoning has been shown to be flawed, we are simply asking for the quickest and most reasonable remedy to this problem.

We kindly request that COSO respond to this letter within five (5) business days upon receipt of this letter.

Very Truly,

Andrea Kiser and Sarah Canale Advocates for Conservative Thought

Because Your Liberty is a Precious Thing