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Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

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- ▶ [Programs](#)
- ▶ [Issues](#)
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- ▶ [Program Staff](#)
- ▶ [Board of Advisors](#)

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- ▶ [Submit a Case](#)
- ▶ [In the News](#)
- ▶ [In the Mailbox](#)
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 Quarterly of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
THE FIRE QUARTERLY

January 14, 2003

To: Andrea Kiser

From: Committee on Student Organizations, C.O.S.O

Re: Advocates for Conservative Thought

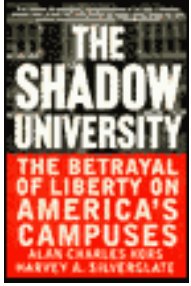
Dear Ms. Kiser

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.

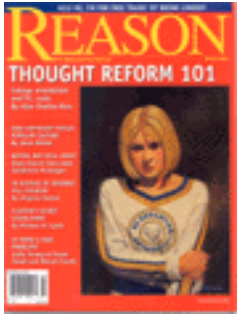
In response to your first question, all the necessary paperwork was filed with COSO and the required steps were taken for organization approval. Therefore, your organization was not denied for a lack of proper paperwork.

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.

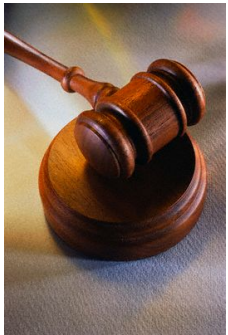
If what you are looking for is a nonpartisan forum for conservative



Read excerpts from [The Shadow University](#) by Alan Charles Kors & Harvey A. Silverglate.



Read [Thought Reform 101](#) by Alan Charles Kors.



Read [Memo to Free Speech Advocates University of Wisconsin-Madison](#) by Harvey A. Silverglate.

Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, Inc.
210 West Washington Square
Suite 303
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: (215) 717-3473 (717-FIRE)
Fax: (215) 717-3440
Email: fire@thefire.org

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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.

The Committee would like to advice that the members of your organization first try and approach either the College Republicans or the Council for Democracy with your ideas. After a semester of involvement with these organizations if you still feel underrepresented, then you can return to the Committee with your ideas for a student organization and we will once again review your constitution.

If you have any further questions on this matter, you may contact either Aarti Patel or Valerie Figueredo at coso.studorgs@miami.edu or you may leave a message at the STIC, UC 209.

Thank you,

Valerie Figueredo
Co-Chair
Committee on Student Organizations

cc:

Cie Chapel, Associate Director of Student Activities and Leadership Programs
Renee Dickens-Callan, Director of Student Activities and Leadership Programs

Because Your Liberty is a Precious Thing
