

ASFAC denies funds to political group

Editor: The financial decision makers in Student Government, the members of ASFAC, revealed themselves to be both naive and afraid Sunday when they unanimously voted to give Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (SCAAR) zero money from student funds as an annual budget.

They are afraid of funding an organization that is "too political." Members of ASFAC expressed their concern that if SG funded SCAAR it would also have to fund any pro-racist or neo-nazi organization that asked for funds. The obvious question is, "Why?" Doesn't ASFAC have the brains or conscience to distinguish between progressive student organizations that enjoy student support and reactionary sects based on hatred? If ASFAC funds COAR (Campus Organized Against Rape) does this mean it must also fund some pro-rape organization? I hope not.

They are naive in clinging to the idea that they can somehow divorce themselves from politics altogether. Whether the members of ASFAC like it or not, they and the

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money they control are part of the political picture. To decide to be apolitical is a political choice and, in this case, is a vote of support for the status quo at UF and in South Africa. The great majority of students at UF is against apartheid. Why doesn't ASFAC have the guts to stand up with the students it supposedly serves?

It is time ASFAC members follow the leadership of Student Body President Pam Bingham, wake up to the reality of world politics and stop playing SG games.

James Sullivan
SCAAR member

SG correct in not funding political group

UF's Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee is in charge of \$4 million in student fees. It does that money out to various student organizations. It recently made the astute decision not to hand money over to the Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism because it is, quite simply, a political organization.

Mr. James Sullivan, a SCAAR member, wrote a letter to *The Alligator* on April 9 lamenting the judgment of ASFAC. He complains, "They are naive in clinging to the idea that they can somehow divorce themselves from politics altogether." Saying that a student organization cannot separate itself from politics is like saying the United States cannot draw a line between church and state. Not only is such a thing possible, it is desirable and necessary.

Mr. Sullivan then makes the tenuous suggestion that ASFAC's withholding of funds from SCAAR is *de facto* support of the racist

regime currently in power in South Africa. To carry this absurd idea to its logical conclusion, ASFAC must send money to the rebels in Afghanistan, or it will, by its inaction, be supporting the Soviet troops that have invaded that country.

On the other hand, ASFAC must also wire a couple of million dollars to bolster the new government in the Philippines, else nitpickers like Mr. Sullivan will accuse it of lending a hand to the communist insurgents who are a large thorn in Aquino's side and continue to show a general distaste for things democratic.

Mr. Sullivan attempts to defend his position by saying, "The great majority of students at UF is against apartheid." Quite true, Mr. Sullivan. The great majority of students at UF also supported the Republican Party in the last election. Does that mean you want to see ASFAC send off a fat check to the Republican National Headquarters? I think not.

What he fails to realize is that SCAAR is a

right reason

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political organization—not because it opposes apartheid, but because it supports divestment. Racism is a social issue; divestment, as the controversy that surrounds it would indicate, is a political one.

Mr. Sullivan ends with the taunt, "Why doesn't ASFAC have the guts to stand up with the students it supposedly serves? ASFAC is serving the students and it is treating them as such—not as supporters of divestment or opponents to abortion or whatever, but as students."

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