COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

BERKELEY DIVISION of the ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

In fulfilling its charge as established in the By-Laws of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, the Committee on Academic Freedom (ACFR) carried out the following activities.

Note: items are listed chronologically in each section.

I. Finished Business

- Review of draft copyright proposals. The committee endorsed the draft policy overall, but suggested an experimental period to test some of its provisions. The committee also offered a few suggestions to help clarify the wording of the policy.

  Comments forwarded to Senate Chair Dowall (9/17/01).

- Review of Resolution in Defense of Civil Liberties and International Students. The committee felt that the wording and formulation of the resolution was outdated but that the thrust of the resolution was valid. The committee suggested that the senate make it clear that academic freedom will be held in high esteem regardless of current world events and that academic freedom should always be balanced against other important national goals.

  Comments forwarded to Senate Chair Dowall (11/28/01).

- Comment on the occupation of Wheeler Hall on April 9, 2002 by Students for Justice in Palestine. The committee called for the fair and equitable treatment of the students who participated in the protest.

  Comments forwarded to Senate Chair Dowall (5/7/02).

II. Unfinished Business

- Formulation of a general statement on academic freedom. The committee planned to create a mission statement that will help the university community understand what academic freedom is and what the
committee’s role is in real academic freedom cases. The committee discussed the bulk of the ideology behind and content of such a statement, but did not get as far as drafting a statement.

To be completed 2002-2003

- Website design. The committee decided to use its website on the academic senate server to inform visitors about academic freedom and the resources available to aid in specific cases. On the website will be included the committee’s mission statement as well as contact information for the committee members and for various campus organizations that can help the university community with academic freedom issues. The website will make an equal effort to aid students as well as faculty.

To be completed 2002-2003.

- Discussion of academic freedom of students. The committee discussed academic freedom as it pertains specifically to students. The committee noted a few shortcomings in the student code of conduct and will try, in the future, to ensure equal academic freedom rights for students.