

Ryan Bilodeau
URI College Republicans
SOARC Decision

Dear Mr. Bilodeau,

The Senate unanimously upheld SOARC's decision regarding the sanction being levied against the URI College Republicans. Thus, it is now your responsibility to create a letter to be submitted in the Good Five Cent Cigar with at least the following two features:

1. A brief and accurate description of the regulations preventing the College Republicans from offering or disbursing a scholarship with the features that the WHAM scholarship possessed.
2. A brief apology to those members of the community who were eligible to apply for the scholarship and particularly to those members of the community who actually applied under the impression that they would be eligible to receive the WHAM scholarship. The apology is specifically for confusing and deceiving (intentionally or not) the public into believing that you could provide a service that you could not in fact provide.

Text in the letter referring to the above two items are subject to editorial control by the committee. The remainder of the letter is not. Feel free to use the letter to talk about affirmative action or any other political issue you wish. It would be a fantastic opportunity for you to further the expansion of the 'marketplace of ideas' here at URI.

A draft of the letter must be submitted to our coordinator, Kim Bolton, or to the SOARC chairman on or before March 30th at 4:00pm. This deadline is non-negotiable. Do not submit the letter before it has been reviewed by SOARC. If you wish to have input in the editorial process, attend the SOARC meeting on the following Monday.

West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette does not apply in this case for two reasons. First, as the URI College Republicans under the law is a subsidiary of the URI Student Senate, Inc., orders regarding public communication of any corporation or its affiliates falls entirely under the purview of regulations governing corporate directives and corporate communication. Those regulations give any corporation broad discretion to craft its public communications. Second, *Barnette* only protects against compelled statements which have as their content a belief, ideology, or idea; it does not prevent compelled speech of facts or declamation, which is the compelled element of speech in this case.

The second portion of the sanction is simply this: from now until February 1, 2008, any time the URI College Republicans plan a public event beyond the regularly-scheduled meetings of the organization, the College Republicans must present the event plan to SOARC. SOARC will then assess the event only upon the following criteria:

1. Does the event, as designed, obey the laws, regulations, and bylaws applicable to the URI College Republicans?
2. Does the event, as designed, minimize any serious risk of legal liability for the URI College Republicans or the URI Student Senate, Inc.?

If the event, as designed, fails either of these criteria, SOARC will inform the College Republicans of the problems, and if possible, offer to help redesign the event so that it will still achieve the College Republicans' public goals while simultaneously respecting the law and minimizing liability.

Sincerely,

Matthew Yates
SOARC Chairman