

CAFAS Update No 9

25th March 1996

Council for Academic Freedom and Academic Standards

Next Meeting:

Saturday 20th April 2 - 4:30pm

Room MB307,

Birkbeck College,

Malet Street, London WC1

Nearest Tube: Goodge Street

Change of date and venue for AGM

The date for the AGM had been planned for 30th March, this date has now been cancelled, the new date is 20th April 1996 at the above address. We look forward to seeing you, the AGM is open to all, and all members are entitled to vote.

A meeting of the current office holders will be held at the above address at 1pm on 20th April 1996.

The Thomas Gradgrind Award

The nominations for the Thomas Gradgrind award are flooding in again this year. This is the award made to the Vice-Chancellor, Principal or other senior official who in the view of the judges most exemplifies the new values in higher and further education. Last year the joint winners were Anne Wright at Sunderland, who threatened to sack a lecturer who criticised the local council's marketing policy. The other was Kenneth Barker of De Montford who suspended a lecturer on grounds of ill-health who took a week off work with flu.

All nominations should be sent to:

Colwyn Williamson,

CAFAS

The University,

Swansea SA2 8PP

01792-295895

Election of Officers

Current holders:

Case Coordinator: Colwyn Williamson - willing to stand

Chair: John Fernandes - willing to stand

Secretary: Michael Cohen - willing to stand

Treasurer: Sara Brown - willing to stand

Membership Secretaries: Geraldine Thorpe and Pat Brady - willing to stand

Data Collection Secretary: Gill Evans - willing to stand

Update Compiler: Sara Brown - would like to stand down

Auditor: Stanley Jenkins - willing to stand

David Regan Appeal Coordinator - vacant

All members who attend the AGM are entitled to vote. If you wish to nominate someone, please let the Secretary know the name + the proposer and seconder before the start of the meeting.

Stanley Jenkins - A Pyriah

Stanley Jenkins won three IT cases against Thanet College, a fourth was settled out of court and included a gagging clause and "early retirement". An update on Stanley Jenkins reveals that his case may have helped the FEFC by providing a case study detailing unacceptable behaviour, but this may cause him further victimisation and discrimination.

The FEFC has published a booklet for managers co-authored with the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) entitled "Further Education and Equality" and have used the Stanley Jenkins case to exemplify unacceptable racial harassment.

They state that Thanet College has acted on the recommendations on the CRE, however they failed to check the facts with Stanley Jenkins, or ask his permission to publicise the case. Stanley has been out of work since October 1994, and is actively looking for work within the FE sector, but with the publicity given to the case by this booklet questions need to be raised. Should a case be publicised without the permission of the individual? Will it be possible for him to gain employment? Is he now being further victimised by the FEFC, CRE and the EOC?

The Public Interest Bill

Don Touhig's Public Interest Disclosure Bill passed its second reading by 118 votes to nil on 1st March. This bill would ensure employee protection if the disclosure was in the public interest and had been raised, and ignored by the management. It moves into committee stage, but John Taylor, a junior trade and industry minister does not expect the bill to succeed as he suggests it would impose a considerable burden on business.

Letters on any issue, news items and short articles for CAFAS Update should be addressed to:

Sara Brown

39 College Street,

Grimsby DN34 4TN

01472 340018

CAFAS Publications

All available at £1.50

Also available:

Academic standards under pressure: the case of Swansea - Michael Cohen & Colwyn Williamson

The other plagiarism case: Mrs Jones & the University of Wales - Michael Cohen & Colwyn Williamson

Prospects of promotion: towards a common code of practice - G R Evans

Research assessment: as strange a maze as e'er men trod - John Griffiths

Sir Michael Davies: The Davies Report: the 'great battle' in Swansea Thoemmes Press, 1994 Price £4 (£3 to CAFAS members)

from: CAFAS
The University,
Swansea SA2 8PP
01792-205678

Patrons

CAFAS is bringing together a body of eminent academic patrons willing to associate their names with our objectives and to assist in specific cases of victimisation. Those who have so far agreed are Professors Geoffrey Alderman (London), Elizabeth Anscombe (Cambridge), Michèle Barrett (London), David Beetham (Leeds), Jennifer Birkett (Birmingham), Noam Chomsky (MIT), G.A. Cohen (Oxford), J B Deregowski (Aberdeen), Ray Dils (Reading), Michael Dummett (Oxford), Terry Eagleton (Oxford), Chris Freeman (Sussex), Peter Geach (Leeds), John Griffith (LSE), David Howell (Manchester), Richard Hyman (Warwick), J F Lamb (St Andrews), David McLellan (Kent), T J Reed (Oxford), Steven Rose (Open), Hilary Rose (Bradford), , James Sang (Brighton), John Saville (Hull), Phil Scraton (Edge Hill), Stan Smith (Dundee) and John Westergaard (Sheffield).

Membership Fees & Affiliation

Photocopy this application for membership and distribute it among your colleagues. If you haven't yet joined yourself, could you pay your membership fees. Try to get your local AUT or NATFHE to affiliate to CAFAS. Please complete the form below.

Please send to CAFAS Membership Secretaries, 7 Benn Street, London E9 5SU

Name.....Address.....

.....Post Code.....Date.....

I/we wish to join/affiliate to CAFAS and enclose a cheque/sent a Bankers Order for £.....00

(£10 p.a. for individual membership, £5 p.a. for students and unwaged, £25 p.a. for trade union affiliation)

Bankers Order

To (name & address of your bank).....

.....Post Code.....

Your Bank Sort Code.....Your Account Number.....

Please pay CAFAS the sum ofevery year starting on (date).....

Signature.....

For Bank Information

Account: CAFAS
Lloyds Bank plc, Swansea Branch, PO Box 66, Swansea SA1 3AP

Sort Code 30-95-46

Account no: 1868136