

THE REPORTER

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P.O. Box 38893, Houston, Texas 77088, President -
Kevin Bailey; Vice-President - Alan Hall, The Reporter
is designed to provide periodic information on Guild
activities.

Guild President Kevin Bailey was recently informed by Mr. Thorne that union officers would no longer be allowed to discuss the union in faculty offices. This directive was followed by a memorandum from Dean Airola, dated September 3, which said, in part:

First, a faculty member's office is part of his/her work station in the same manner as a classroom, and faculty members are not to be accosted in their offices for non-college business...which includes union recruiting activities. The cafeteria, lounge areas, etc. are not regarded as work or teaching areas.

Second, you will be expected to restrict your union activities to those hours not within your 35-hour work week...

Kevin, it is most imperative that these guidelines be observed very carefully. Failure to do so could subject you to disciplinary action.

Subsequently, Dr. Aira informed President Bailey that this restriction applies only to union officers and to union related business. Other organizations, such as TJCTA and the Faculty Senate, as well as salesmen, insurance agents, and so forth, may use faculty work time to carry out their affairs. Only union activities, by the officers, is forbidden. Furthermore, the officers were informed that they may not discuss the union in faculty offices, nor read union material while in their office. They can respond to questions about the union, as long as these inquiries are initiated by others.

Shortly after the memo, Mr. Bailey was called into the Dean's office and accused of visiting with a faculty member in that person's office, and discussing the union. Dr. Airola informed Mr. Bailey that he must not talk to faculty members while on his 35 hour schedule nor during the other person's 35 hour schedule. The administration believes that they must protect the taxpayer from having to pay for non-work of faculty members. However, a discussion about topics such as football or the Faculty Senate and its business has been deemed as legitimate and therefore, in the taxpayer's best interest.

This month, two divisions voted to have a union representative speak to them as a group following their monthly faculty meeting. However, the administration has forbidden such discussions.

The Board of Trustees refused to allow a union representative to appear before the September meeting to discuss these recent restrictions. Although union officers have twice before addressed the Board, this will no longer be allowed. In addition to these denials, the Trustees voted at that same meeting to use taxpayers' money to pay for any damages assessed against Board members in the lawsuit filed by the union. The suit charged President Thorne and the Board members with a violation of First Amendment rights to free speech against all NHCC union members.

The NHCC/UF will continue to monitor the situation, striving constantly to seek equality for all on campus. Its officers will keep all NHCC faculty informed as to its struggles and, hopefully, progress.