



FACULTY ADVOCATE

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\$72,415 Raised for Habib Sadid Case

With a recent check from the national office and more contributions to the Sadid Defense Fund, legal aid for ISU Professor Habib Sadid has now reached \$72,415. Award winning in teaching, service, and research, Sadid was terminated from his tenured position October, 2009.

This is the 12th major case (and over hundred grievances) that the IFT has supported since 1974. Of the first 11, the IFT has won 9 with nearly \$2 million in settlements for Idaho faculty. Over \$100,000 in legal aid has come from the national office over the years, which we believe is a very good return on the national dues AFT members pay.

An appeal of Judge David C. Nye's decision to award summary judgment to ISU regarding Sadid's First Amendment rights was filed with the Idaho Supreme Court on August 27, 2010. An appeal to the Idaho Industrial Commission denying Sadid unemployment benefits has also been filed. A wrongful termination suit charging massive violation of due process will soon be filed as well.

The ISU Federation has contributed \$4,300 for Sadid; the Idaho Federation of Teachers has disbursed \$24,000 from its defense fund; the national AFT has so far sent \$39,965; and the Sadid Defense Fund has raised \$4,150. The AFT National Defense Fund has pledged to pay one half of Sadid's legal fees until final judgment is rendered.

The faculty union urges all concerned citizens to contribute to "Dr. Sadid's Legal Defense Fund," Citizens Community Bank, 280 South Arthur, Pocatello, 83204. ISU Professor Emerita Joan Downing has set up this account for Professor Sadid.

The faculty union is challenging *Garcetti v. Cellabos*, a Supreme Court decision that has been incorrectly used to limit the free speech rights of America's professors. The Sadid case may well end up in the Supreme Court. Every single American faculty member's First Amendment rights are in jeopardy as long as lower court judges apply this ruling improperly.

Go to www.idaho-aft.org/Sadid.htm for all the details about the case.

No-Confidence Vote On ISU President Arthur Vailas Postponed

The December 6 no-confidence vote for ISU President Arthur Vailas has been postponed. Phil Cole, ISU Faculty Senate Chair, told the Associated Press: "We have stepped back from that abyss." Negotiations with the central administration over the issues raised at a November 8 faculty senate meeting will continue.

Here is an earlier *Faculty Advocate* (20:2) story on this topic:

On Monday November 8 the ISU Faculty Senate voted 13-11 to hold a no confidence vote on President Arthur Vailas. The vote is scheduled for December 6.

Last spring 68 percent of the ISU faculty declared that they had no confidence in ISU Provost Gary Olson. Earlier the faculty had, by a similar margin, rejected Olson's plan to reorganize the university. At the beginning of Fall semester Vailas announced that Olson would stay in his position.

In a story in the Idaho State Journal (Nov. 9) Vailas protested the decision: "The fact that the senate

didn't study the allegations and endorse them before voting should raise suspicion about the process that led to the vote. . . . If somebody makes allegations, the burden is on them to prove it. . . . Having a vote after people make all these allegations, I find that to be ridiculous and unethical. I am very disappointed in the leadership of the senate and people have to question the ethics of that."

The ISU senators did agree that they would give Vailas a chance to respond to the allegations before the campus vote. They did, however, reject the idea of mediation because Vailas believes, as the Journal reports, "that there is no lack of communication on his part means choosing that avenue would be a waste of time."

"Going into mediation with someone who thinks they don't have a problem isn't going to work," said Chad Gross of the College of Arts and Letters. "My faculty don't feel respected and they don't think mediation is going to work."

The allegations against Vailas were presented by former faculty senate chair David Delehanty, and they included, as the Journal reports, "failure of leadership, publicly denigrating Faculty Senate leadership, increasing budget secrecy, excessive secrecy, a pattern consistent with nepotism, and taking credit in front of the State Board of Education for accomplishments by the faculty or the previous administration."

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