

USA PATRIOT ISSUES FOR CAMPUSES

Policies in the USA Patriot Act, executive orders, and other federal guidelines that directly pertain to student, faculty and staff life on campus fall into at least five main areas:

- 1.) Privacy of student, staff, faculty and administration records.
- 2.) Campus police cooperation with the FBI
- 3.) Surveillance
- 4.) Academic freedom
- 5.) Immigrants' rights

Below the issues are explained in detail. It is important to recognize that this is a list of what could possibly be occurring on your campus. Even if these are not currently issues on your campus, students, staff, faculty and members of the administration may still institute protection measures to uphold their civil liberties. It is important to get the facts in order to find out what is happening on your campus and then take action.

Privacy of Campus Records

- According to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), about 200 colleges and universities have turned over student information to the FBI, INS, and other law enforcement officials.
- Educational institutions are permitted to disclose "directory information" to anyone who asks. Directory information includes name, phone number, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in activities and sports, dates of attendance, the most recent previous educational institution attended, and other information which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy (FERPA).
- Your school also collects a wealth of more personal information ranging from your medical records to your family's finances to disciplinary records; they may also release this information to federal authorities.
- Your school library and bookstore must turn over borrowing and sales records on individuals to the FBI or other law enforcement agency, *and* they can't tell you they have done so.

Campus Police Cooperation with the FBI

- The FBI is employing campus police on a part-time basis to monitor political and religious activities on campus and investigate student, faculty, and staff backgrounds and activities.
- Under the guise of "terrorism investigation", campus police may then search your room/office and belongings without notifying you or the college administration.
- Campus police cooperating in FBI investigations on terrorism are prohibited from reporting to the head of campus police or any other member of the university on their activities.

Surveillance

- Universities may be permitted to monitor e-mail and Internet communications, particularly in cases where a student, faculty member or staff person is using university or college-owned equipment.
- Law enforcement agents may obtain pen register and trap and trace orders access to "dialing, routing and signaling information." Because Internet information moves together in packets, law enforcement thereby has the authority to monitor Internet communications of students, faculty or staff who are not a target of a criminal investigation.
- Law enforcement agents may employ video surveillance to track and record an individual's activities on campus.

Academic Freedom

- Universities may institute policies that restrict when and where students, faculty and staff may rally, protest, or speak about a certain issue.
- Universities may sanction students or faculty for written or spoken commentary.
- The government or universities may institute policies that prohibit the research and writing around certain topic areas in the interests of "national security."

Immigrant Rights

- Colleges and universities are required to compile records for all international students and enter them into an INS database, the SEVIS (Student/Exchange Visitor Information System).
- All non-citizen men over the age of sixteen from a specific list of mainly Arab and Muslim nations are required to participate in special registration with the INS. Of those who have registered, some have been arrested without a specific warrant, held without access to a lawyer, and/or deported without the right to an open hearing.
- Students (and perhaps faculty) from some mainly Arab and Muslim countries have been denied visas to return to school after visits home.