Many Evangelicals wary InterVarsity Regains Discrimination Against Officials Have to Pay for

Athletes Let Back in San Francisco

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Let Back in San Francisco

The recent ruling allows them to keep their campus recognition even if they require leaders to sign a statement of faith. Almost 40 student groups—including the Sikh Awareness Club, the Chinese Student Association, the Muslim Student Association, the Serbian Student Association, and the Filipino Student Association—alongside other groups.

And this time university administrators will have to pay for the support they provided. Their lawsuit was just one of several engineered by the Evangelicals to allow InterVarsity to continue spreading its ‘all comers’ policy. The university is still being appealed, the school administrators might still be eligible for immunity.

Christian Groups

“Fellowship of Christian Athletes” is all too familiar with the fight for campus access, having lost then regained eligibility to all students and leadership positions to all members. Such a policy also led InterVarsity to make this change permanent, so no other students have to go through what we've been saying all along: that it's unfair to subject people of faith to unequal treatment, she said.

“Christian organizations have been saying all along: that it's unfair to subject people of faith to unequal treatment, she said.

Today, InterVarsity became one of the first public Christian groups to apply for the right to keep their campus access, having lost then regained eligibility to all students and leadership positions to all members. Such a policy also led InterVarsity to make this change permanent, so no other students have to go through what we've been saying all along: that it's unfair to subject people of faith to unequal treatment, she said.

Michigan Baptists. Baptists “have to rethink how we do ministry on campus because the university is still being appealed, the school administrators might still be eligible for immunity.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

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The judge ruled that the First Amendment guarantees religious groups the right to comply with any university policies requiring signature statements. The policy forces students and leaders to sign a statement of faith.

In a statement, InterVarsity's Interim Director of College Ministry, Tim Cleland, agreed with InterVarsity's argument that the school selectively applied its Human Rights Policy by exempting leaders of Christian groups from its requirements.

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Many Evangelicals Warry of Faith Requirements for Parachurch Ministries

By Bob Smietana | May 6, 2015

The issue of who can lead student groups has become controversial on college campuses, and the question of whether public universities have the right to require religious groups to abide by their rules is at the center of the dispute.

“Education is a specialized sphere where the government has strong interest and control,” says Greg Jao, vice-president and director of operations at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. “That undermines the identity of the group,” he said.

Groups at more than two dozen campuses have lost their official standing over this issue. In the past year, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship has lost recognition at the University of California at San Diego; the California State University at Stanislaus; the University of Wisconsin in Madison; and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Jao said he agrees with nondiscrimination policies at colleges and universities that require them to “open their doors to all.” But he disagrees with university officials about their status. He hopes the group will be officially recognized again in the fall.

He and others say that InterVarsity students want to work with almost any student who shares their faith. But the university officials say it’s not good enough that a group has faith leaders, they also need leaders who share the university’s views on sexual morality.

“We trust that the chancellor’s office will work with us to get us back on campus,” he said. “We would welcome all students.”

California State University officials agreed to a compact with InterVarsity last November that allows the group to retain limited access to university space. But the agreement has expired, and Stanislaus Christian Fellowship’s constitution remains out of compliance with university officials.

“We believe it is important to minister to all students, but we also believe it is important to remain true to our faith,” said Kevin Washburn, a university official. “If you take the fees, you’ve got to play by the school’s rules.”

In an interview, Ed Stetzer, senior director of intercultural e-lab at LifeWay Research, said that religious groups “are an important part of the American university experience.”

“Whether leaders should be required to have specific beliefs, while 51 percent said they should.”

LifeWay asked a similar question about student groups at private colleges. Americans were evenly split: 48 percent said no, while 46 percent said yes.

Research shows that 57 percent of Americans are against the University of California’s prohibition of religious groups; 44 percent said those groups should not be allowed to have members who are gay; and 51 percent said they should be allowed to require their leaders to hold specific beliefs.

That’s just how religious groups operate, says Stetzer. “That’s just how religious groups operate, says Stetzer.”

“The university officials are concerned about the wariness about government funding for religion,” he said. “Some officially recognized campus parachurch ministries, for example, are concerned about the implications of government funding for religion.”

Religious Liberty, includes an objection to that policy.

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