

Klinedinst Sells Out...Again

Former EFIB Chairman and current Professor of Economics Mark Klinedinst has a reputation in the CoB. For years, Klinedinst has been the CoB's resident collectivist, espousing Socialist doctrine in his courses. Klinedinst has also been the CoB's main link to more liberal-minded organizations like the USM Honors College and the AAUP.

It is no secret that Klinedinst's stint as EFIB Chairman was a disaster. After the retirement of Iskandar Hamwi in 2003, Klinedinst was tapped for the position by new dean Duane Harold Doty. As with many of Doty's decisions, the promotion of Klinedinst proved to be an utter failure. Unable to manage the EFIB's faculty; unwilling to spend the requisite time on budgeting, financial reporting, or scheduling; and unprepared to accept criticism of his administrative "style," Klinedinst became the textbook definition of "Behind Two Closed Doors," often hiding in his JGH 309 office with ear muffs on. Klinedinst was later removed from his position by Doty after Economists and Finance faculty alike lodged complaint after complaint. Unfortunately for the department, Klinedinst's replacement was the "Smiling Assassin," George Carter.

After his removal from the Chairman's position, Klinedinst withdrew to the luxury of a new office in the Kaetsu Suite. With a more low-profile existence, Klinedinst could return to his relatively normal routine: being AAUP Treasurer, editing "Smoke Signals," and cutting out of work whenever possible.

Klinedinst's dedication to his "principles" was revealed in August and September 2006 when, as part of the EFIB Department, Klinedinst voted for EFIB governance to be conducted by a Committee of Three Members, as did the majority of the department. It is of note that Klinedinst had been the lone EFIB proponent of the committee governance format for years. Suddenly, in 2006, Klinedinst's normal behavior aligned with others' wishes as they sought to reduce the potential for George Carter to punish those who did not immediately goose-step to Carter's cadence. In the second EFIB governance vote, in which Carter engineered an illegitimate re-vote, Klinedinst changed his vote to support the Chairman-as-Committee option; in essence, Klinedinst sold out his "principles" to keep peace with the CoB's ruling class. So much for the Cornell revolutionary's ideals.

Now, in 2008, Klinedinst has once again sold out his "principles." Recall that Klinedinst is the multi-term AAUP Treasurer and one of the CoB's staunchest AAUP supporters. The reader may also recall that Klinedinst

served interim dean Alvin Jerome Williams as chair of the CoB Faculty Handbook Committee. It is noteworthy, then that the new CoB Faculty Handbook will contain the following passage concerning Tenure and Promotion.

Statement of Collegiality Expectations

In an effort to create a favorable work environment that promotes the success of all college participants, it is important to explicitly state that collegiality is a dimension that will be considered in the tenure process.

- All faculty members and administrators are expected to contribute to developing a collegial environment in the Department, College, and University.
- All faculty members and administrators are expected to treat colleagues with professional respect.
- All faculty members and administrators are expected to engage in positive organizational citizenship behaviors.

The reader will note that the statement, adopted as part of the 2007-08 AACSB Probation Review, is the purview of the Handbook Committee, since its content defines a portion of the requirements for faculty in the USM CoB. Because this language is part of the USM CoB Faculty Handbook, it necessarily was approved by Klinedinst's committee.

Now, compare the statement above with the following policy.

A distinct criterion of collegiality also holds the potential of chilling faculty debate and discussion. Criticism and opposition do not necessarily conflict with collegiality. Gadflies, critics of institutional practices or collegial norms, even the occasional malcontent, have all been known to play an invaluable and constructive role in the life of academic departments and institutions. They have sometimes proved collegial in the deepest and truest sense. Certainly a college or university replete with genial Babbitts is not the place to which society is likely to look for leadership. It is sometimes exceedingly difficult to distinguish the constructive engagement that characterizes true collegiality from an obstructiveness or truculence that inhibits collegiality. Yet the failure to do so may invite the suppression of dissent. The very real potential for a distinct criterion of "collegiality" to cast a pall of stale uniformity places it in direct tension with the value of faculty diversity in all its contemporary manifestations.

The passage above is taken directly from the AAUP Statement, "On Collegiality as a Criterion for Faculty Evaluation," approved by the National AAUP's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure in 1999.

How, then, are we to reconcile Klinedinst's membership (and, indeed, officership) in the AAUP with his Chairmanship of the CoB Handbook Committee, which approved the statement of collegiality expectations for inclusion in the CoB's Faculty Handbook? It is an impossible task. The AAUP statement, which Klinedinst supposedly upholds as an officer in that organization, is in direct opposition to the CoB's adopted statement. It is possible that Klinedinst opposed the verbiage and the Handbook Committee simply outvoted him. Where, then, is Klinedinst's public dissenting opinion decrying the inclusion of this abominable suggestion? It doesn't exist.

What are we to believe about Klinedinst's "principles" in this instance? As in the 2006 EFIB re-vote, Klinedinst supported one ethos only to abandon it when the application of his principles to practice would have cost him political capital. As AAUP Treasurer, Klinedinst knows about the AAUP statement, and as CoB Handbook Committee Chairman, Klinedinst was in a position to fight against the collegiality requirement. However, he did nothing except toe the CoB party line. What are we to think of Mark Klinedinst?

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, provides the following definition:

Fraud : a person who is not what he or she pretends to be