

## **AAU PC**

### **Stan Katz**

Emergence of new conservative groups aiming to accack campuses.

Changes since 1960s

- i) demographic change--brought new people into univesity...committed to cultural identity rather than assimilation
- ii) feminims
- iii) curriculum (women's studies, afro studies)
- iv) failure to replace 40s, 50s concept of general education
- v) dsappearance of liberalism as core of American life, general decline in faith about liberal values.

Components of PC attacks

- i) victim studies
- ii) commitment to traditional curriculum
- iii) affirmative action
- iv) philosophical absolutism--fear of relativism

Terribly important to begin to pound away on fundamental university values--to provide a rock upon which to base change.

Part of problem is that we are now enrolling groups with quite different values sytems--inner city minority groups, etc--that make it far more difficult to deal with these issues.

Other side:

- i) PC is real--the left has a tendency toward intolerance
- ii) proponents of PC have a very strong ideological stance ...and also intolerance ane regressinve
- iii) the challenge is to keep the debate open
- iv) Have to hafce up to the fact that we have changed our campuses by making them more diverse..."preferential treatment"...rethink curriculum. Old paradigm of assimilation will not work any more. New people don't want to be melted down.
- v) need to redefine liberalism for 21st Century

### **Gray:**

Problem is that universities are continually asked to do things which are not their first purpose. In particular, universities are asked to be ideal communities and ideal parents.

Concern that efforts of peace, compassion, the desire to build an ideal community have distracted us from the fundamental purpose of universities--we are a community of scholars, not an ideal community. We should encourage debate and disagreement.

### **Bok**

Presidents are not perceived to be visible defenders of fundamental values against left and right. Much of concer about PC would be flunted if presidents would] take ka more visible stand. Presidents have become negotiators, mediators, and administrators...not leaders.

### **Schmidt**

Very few people are articulating vision of university. The university is NOT about utility, but about understanding. Further, we must never compromise freedom of expression and freedom of thought. Finally, we should only evaluate people according to academic merit...notother issues over which we have no competence.