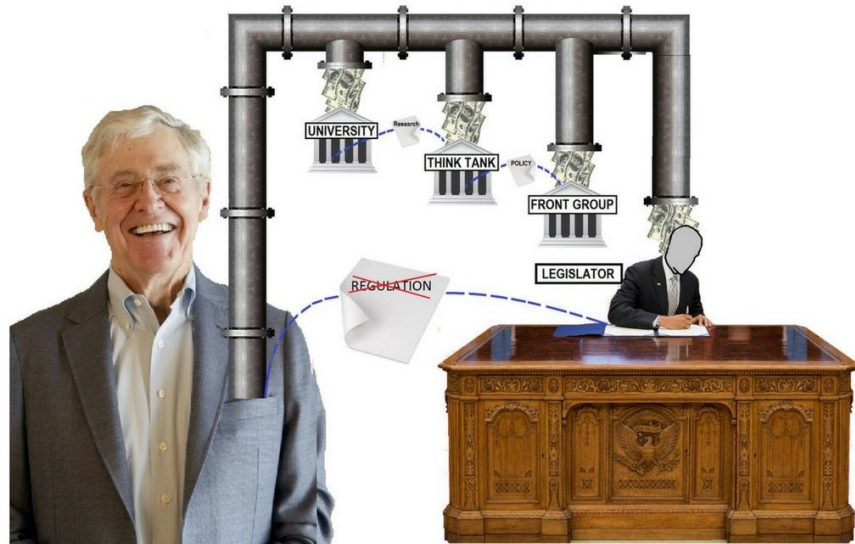


Charles Koch et al. vs UA Students



Did you know that our UA campus houses a so-called “Freedom Center” [FC] that Charles Koch and friends started and continue to support financially?

This is not something to just shrug off. Here’s why:

1. *The crushing burden of tuition*

Koch and his network want to privatize most public services, including public education, including public universities like this one. They pursue this goal by backing deeper and deeper cuts in state education budgets. For public university students, this means higher and higher tuition, and larger and larger student loan debt.

2. *Indoctrination*

The Koch network, including the FC and UA faculty members who are a network product, are guilty of unacknowledged ideological bias in their teaching and their instructional materials. The textbook and course the FC has produced for dual enrollment high school economics courses is a case in point. The same course is offered at UA as PPEL 101, the gateway course for the PPEL (Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law) program. Another case is the “Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation” course. Still another is UA professor Dirk Mateer, a product of the Koch academic pipeline that the FC, its distorted version of PPEL, and courses like Mateer’s all serve.

3. The power of money

The servants of the Koch pipeline are entitled to their opinions and have a right to try to propagate them. They should come clean, however, about the fact that they are presenting one viewpoint, not the received truth. Also, there is the following equation to consider:

$$\text{opinions} \times \text{\$}\text{\$}\text{\$}\text{\$}\text{\$}\text{\$}\text{\$}^n = \text{social power}$$

The power of Koch & friends and their opinions is *one* result—a particularly serious one—of the grotesque wealth inequality in this country. Oligarchy is on the rise—some would say, already here—and its effects are being felt in our educational institutions, including UA, as well as throughout American society.

4. Academic freedom violated

Agreements with Koch network donors to the FC enable improper donor control over faculty hiring and course content, as proven by documents obtained through public records requests. UA needs to adopt policies that will prevent this from recurring, and an independent faculty committee needs to investigate the past and present behavior of the FC, including the PPEL program (which it controls) and the Department of Political Economy and Moral Science (which it created). The UA administration was prodded into finally reviewing the FC in spring 2019, but it has yet to release the review report. The report can be expected to be a whitewash, but the public has a right to see it.

5. Political agenda subsidized with taxpayer money

To add insult to injury, the FC and its counterpart(s) at ASU have been subsidized since FY 2016 by the AZ state legislature. The FC has received \$2.5M or \$3.5M annually, giving the Koch agenda a free ride. NAU, too, now has its own subsidized “freedom school,” as the legislators dispensing these special line items in the state budget call them. Our group is asking legislators to put an end to this improper use of tax monies and also asking UA to sever ties to the FC. It is folly for a public university to house the enemy within its gates!

Kochs Off Campus!

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