

April 25, 2002

**Resolution in Support of the United Faculty of Florida Chapter at the
University of South Florida in Tampa**

Whereas the newly appointed Board of Trustees and President, Dr. Judy Genshaft, of the University of South Florida, have acted to dismiss a tenured faculty member, Dr. Sami

Al-Arian, on spurious charges of disrupting the university and insubordination, and

Whereas the faculty member was not afforded the right to see evidence against him, to present his side of the story, to cross examine witnesses, or even to be present at the "emergency" Board of Trustees meeting at which the President was instructed to fire him, thus depriving him of any semblance of due process, and

Whereas the charge of disruption stems not from any action of Dr. Al-Arian's but from threats made against him, and the charge of insubordination stems from his one-time presence on the campus in alleged violation of a disputed verbal order banning him, and

Whereas this threat to academic freedom and the First Amendment has all the hallmarks of a politically motivated attack on the personal views of a member of the university community uttered extramurally, and

Whereas our brothers and sisters at the United Faculty of Florida are defending their colleague's right to voice his convictions in public without fear of reprisal, and are therefore defending the rights of all members of the larger academic community,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that we join in solidarity with them in their struggle (and donate \$100 in support of their efforts), and ask our president to urge the executive council of the American Federation of Teachers to join in support of the United Faculty of Florida.

For consideration by the Solidarity Committee on March 18, 2001

For consideration by the Delegate Assembly on March 21, 2002

Passed by the Delegate Assembly April 25, 2002