



Faculty Senate Office
Ashe Administration Building, #325
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

facsen@miami.edu
web site: www.miami.edu/fs
P: 305-284-3721
F: 305-284-5515

MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Richard L. Williamson
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: April 22, 2010

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2009-30(D) – Resolution pertaining to Mixed Martial Arts at the BankUnited Center

At its April 21, 2010 meeting, the Faculty Senate adopted the following resolution.

On November 20, 2009, a mixed martial arts (MMA) competition entitled "Unconquered 1: November Reign" took place at the BankUnited Center. Part of the advertising specifically aimed at our students declared that one of the contestants "is only getting better, faster, stronger *deadlier...*" (*emphasis supplied*). The website for this event indicated that subsequent MMA "Bad Blood" events would be taking place at BankUnited Center.

While it would appear that no mixed martial arts event has been scheduled for the near future, the Faculty Senate firmly believes that the practice of holding such events should be halted.

The Senate wishes to emphasize that we are not opposed to all martial arts. We support the martial arts programs offered to our students, faculty and staff at the Wellness Center, taught under controlled conditions. They provide exercise, self-reliance, mental discipline, and in some cases, self defense measures of considerable value. We also are sympathetic to the need to put on events at the BankUnited Center that help defer the costs of that structure, and oppose imposing too many restrictions on the events that may be staged there.

Nevertheless, as with boxing, which we previously opposed, we believe there are several factors which make MMA events inappropriate for our university:

First, MMA is unlike many vigorous sports which have non-injurious goals but sometimes lead to injury. In contrast, as with boxing, the very purpose of MMA is physical violence, the intended effects of which include physical pain and foreseeable injury to the participants;

Second, as we have previously documented to the administration, the incidents of injury from these events is considerable, including injuries to the nervous system; and

Third, our university, and the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, as a major provider of medical services and research, has done far more than most major research universities to reduce the causes and consequences of brain injury, spinal cord injury and other causes of paralysis.

In short, we strongly regret the decision to have this event on the University campus and urge the administration to take all necessary steps to ensure that it is not repeated.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your information.

RW/rh

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost