

Scheduled Clemson “Town Meeting” Showcases Divisions

By [fitsnews](#) • on March 28, 2009



A Clemson “Town Meeting” scheduled for next Tuesday is already showcasing the deep divisions that exist between University administration and certain members of the school’s faculty.

More importantly, the gathering is highlighting the administration’s desire to keep a lid on the discord.

Organized by professor emeritus Dr. John C. Bednar, the “Town Meeting” is currently scheduled to be held this Tuesday, March 31 at 5:00 P.M. in the Tillman Auditorium on campus.

Bednar’s invitation says that the meeting will provide “a good open forum of communication,” although many Clemson faculty, staff and members of the community haven’t been informed that it is even taking place.

Why not?

Well, the Clemson administration has refused requests by Bednar to publicize the meeting.

“The University does not publicize or otherwise disseminate information on behalf of private organizations or individuals,” Clemson attorney Clay Steadman wrote Bednar yesterday.

Clemson communications czarina Cathy Sams agreed.

“Public Affairs does not use university resources, including faculty/staff email lists, to promote events sponsored by private citizens or non-university organizations simply because they are held in rented campus facilities,” she wrote Bednar in an e-mail yesterday.

That’s funny, because we seem to recall Clemson using University resources to promote visits from Presidential candidates, such as then-Senator Barack Obama’s “[Stand for Change](#)” rally last January.

University resources were also used to promote a “[Go Diego Go Live!](#)” concert, and more recently, a local [4-H club event](#).

Based on recent [faculty survey responses](#), this “Town Meeting” is clearly much more relevant than any of those things - and thus is something that everyone in the Clemson family should be made aware of.

The fact that the University is attempting to keep it a secret is sad ... and potentially quite revealing.

END