

The UFF Steering Committee and Council of Presidents unanimously passed the following Resolution on January 21, 2006

RESOLUTION ON COCA-COLA

WHEREAS Coca-Cola has bottling plants worldwide in many underdeveloped countries, and

WHEREAS many of these plants have been the sites of documented and egregious social and environmental abuses, and

WHEREAS Coca-Cola has collaborated with the Colombian government to target union activists, and

WHEREAS union activists at the Coca-Cola plant have been assassinated by right-wing paramilitary groups, and

WHEREAS a fact-finding delegation of labor, educator, and student representatives led by New York City Council member Hiram Monserrate and including members of AFT, AFSCME/CSEA, and CWA concluded, based on a 10-day trip to Colombia in January of 2004, that Coca-Cola is "complicit in human rights abuses in Colombia" and that its "complicity is deepened by its repeated pattern of bringing criminal charges against union activists who have spoken out about the company's collusion with the paramilitaries," and

WHEREAS in India Coca-Cola has contributed to the depletion of groundwater levels, and

WHEREAS India's Parliamentary Committee dismissed Coke's claim for rainwater harvesting, finding Coca-Cola was not even harvesting one-tenth of the water it was using, and

WHEREAS Coca-Cola in India released sludge with toxic levels of cadmium and other heavy metals, and

WHEREAS the Indian government found Coca-Cola products in India contain high levels of pesticides and as a result the Parliament in India has banned the sale of Coca-Cola in its cafeteria, and

WHEREAS union activists in Colombia, community activists in India and throughout the world are calling on their union brothers and sisters and other citizens to avoid buying Coca-Cola products, and

WHEREAS Coca-Cola Corporation failed to reach an agreement by December 31, 2005 with the University of Michigan and other interested universities, in which Coca-Cola was expected to reach an agreement with regards to the selection of a third-party auditor and the specific protocols for an independent review of the circumstances in India and Colombia,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United Faculty of Florida (UFF), in solidarity with our union brothers and sisters fighting for basic democratic and trade union rights and in solidarity with the people of India will refrain from purchasing and serving Coca-Cola products (including soda, water, sports drinks, etc.) at any venue for its events, meetings, conferences, and conventions until the allegations have been investigated;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UFF encourages its chapters and members not to purchase and serve Coke products at any venue for its events, meetings, conferences, and conventions; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that UFF publicizes this issue on its website and in its publications.