
From the Editor

Along with annual reports, lists of officers and committees, and other business documents, this centennial issue of the *Bulletin of the American Association of University Professors* prints four reports of case investigations in the area of academic freedom and tenure, the most published in a single year since 2009. On the basis of these reports, the 101st Annual Meeting voted to add all four subject institutions to the Association's list of censured administrations. (For the full text of the statements of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure recommending censure, see the Committee A report that follows the investigating committee reports.)

Academic Freedom and Tenure: The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, published on the AAUP's website in April, concerns the cases of two full-time faculty members who had served well beyond the seven-year maximum period of probation specified in the 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure* but were ineligible for indefinite tenure under the center's system of "term tenure," in which all faculty members serve on renewable six-year term appointments. Both had received unanimous recommendations for reappointment from the center's faculty personnel committee. In disregard of AAUP-supported standards, neither was provided with a timely statement of the reasons for the decision or afforded the opportunity of an adjudicative hearing before an elected faculty body, in which the burden of demonstrating adequate cause for dismissal would rest with the administration.

Academic Freedom and Tenure: The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, also published online in April, concerns the widely publicized case of a professor who in fall 2013 accepted a tenured appointment, conditioned on board approval, in UIUC's Department of American Indian Studies. In August 2014, after the appointment officially began and shortly before classes commenced, the UIUC chancellor notified the professor that the system's board of trustees would be rejecting his tenured appointment because of Twitter posts in which he had passionately and harshly criticized Israel's actions in

the then-occurring Israel-Gaza conflict. In the past, board approval had generally been considered a mere formality. In attempting to justify the decision, the chancellor and trustees stated that the professor's tweets, by failing to meet a standard of "civility," demonstrated his lack of fitness for a teaching position, as his incivility would threaten the comfort and security of students. The AAUP asserted that allowing the appointment to begin without the board's having rejected it entitled the professor to the procedural safeguards that accompany tenure. The administration, however, declined to afford him the opportunity for a faculty hearing in which it would have been obliged to demonstrate his unfitness, as required under AAUP-recommended standards when a tenured faculty member is dismissed for cause.

Academic Freedom and Tenure: Felician College (New Jersey), published online in May, discusses the cases of seven full-time faculty members, six of them having served well beyond the maximum probationary period stipulated in the 1940 *Statement*. In late January 2014, they were informed (along with nine colleagues who did not seek the AAUP's assistance) that their appointments would end in June. The reason initially given for the action was financial exigency, even though the college never formally declared the existence of such a condition and presented no evidence to the faculty supporting the claim. The administration did not include the faculty in the decision to terminate the sixteen appointments, nor did it offer any reasons for selecting these particular appointments for termination. Although this small Roman Catholic institution (enrolling about two thousand students) has almost nothing in common with one of the world's foremost cancer centers, it does resemble MD Anderson in not offering appointments with indefinite tenure. All full-time faculty members serve on renewable term appointments. In disregard of normative academic standards, the administration did not afford any of the seven faculty members the opportunity to contest the terminations before a duly constituted faculty body.

Academic Freedom and Tenure: University of Southern Maine, also published online in May, is yet another report on mass layoffs of faculty members

because of alleged budget shortfalls. Sixty tenured and nontenured faculty members (24 percent of the full-time faculty) had their appointments terminated when four academic programs were closed to address a projected budget deficit. Belying the administration’s claim that the closures were also designed to create a community-serving “metropolitan” university whose programs did not duplicate those of the flagship campus was the closure of the program in applied medical sciences, which elicited protests not only from faculty members but also from a wide variety of local business and industry leaders. The administration enacted the closures without adequately involving the faculty and effected the terminations absent either a bona fide financial exigency or a bona fide program discontinuance—under AAUP-supported standards the only bases beyond cause for terminating full-time faculty appointments.

This issue of the *Bulletin* also includes the annual report of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, the report of the 2015 annual meeting, corrections to the 2014–15 AAUP faculty compensation report, and up-to-date lists of officers and council members for the AAUP, officers and committees of the AAUP-CBC, the board of directors and committees of the AAUP Foundation, and standing committees of the Association.

—Gregory F. Scholtz