



AAUP CENSURE – AND WHAT IT COULD MEAN FOR ILLINOIS

How might AAUP censure play out? What consequences will the university face?

The University of Illinois claims to "subscribe to the principles of academic freedom and tenure laid down by the American Association of University Professors."¹ Recent events cast doubt on this commitment. The **Campus Faculty Association (CFA)** has stood up for academic freedom and faculty rights by requesting an AAUP investigation into Administration actions.

AAUP Warning. In August 2014, the AAUP warned that "aborting an appointment in this manner without having demonstrated cause has consistently been seen by the AAUP as tantamount to summary dismissal, an action categorically inimical to academic freedom and due process and one aggravated in [Salaita's] case by the apparent failure to provide him with any written or even oral explanation." AAUP is waiting for the campus Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (CAFT) to report its findings.

How does censure work? The AAUP will likely conduct its own investigation. If its committee finds serious violations of AAUP principles, then censure can be voted on by AAUP membership at the Annual Meeting in June.

AAUP has built a national reputation as the conscience of the academy, particularly on academic freedom, tenure, shared governance, adjunct rights and academic due process. When an institution grievously violates widely-accepted AAUP principles, then formal censure is the appropriate response. *Even if the President, Chancellor, and Board of Trustees are replaced, the censure remains in effect until the institution implements needed changes in policies.*

Our Position. An AAUP investigation is highly warranted. If an investigation leads to formal censure, then damage to the university's reputation will be significant. Few research institutions such as the University of Illinois ever commit violations worthy of placement on the Censure List. Yet that is where the Administration and Board of Trustees are leading the university.

Faculty members need to regain power over academic employment. **Unionization** is the best way forward. Tenure stream faculty need the **power of collective bargaining** to protect the university from administrative encroachments on the role of the faculty in academic hiring, and on freedom of speech and freedom of inquiry.

The CFA is building a tenure-stream faculty union. If you agree with the goal, then contact us today to join the union effort!

Campus Faculty Association

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