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AAUP Resolution

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AAUP Resolution

Submitted by Michael Moore/AAUP

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478-0211

3/28/2011

Motion:

Resolution: We resolve the following: That requiring faculty to show evidence of applying for external funding for purposes of tenure, promotion, post tenure review and/or yearly evaluation is a violation of academic freedom. Any restriction on the kind and nature of faculty research violates the hallmark of academic inquiry, the unfettered pursuit of knowledge. Violations of Academic Freedom affect all faculty in every college.

Rationale:

Since COST has a requirement in their departmental T&P Guidelines, "All tenure-track faculty are to have submitted at least one external application for funding by the time of the tenure and promotion to Associate Professor review," and since AAUP members report such a requirement exists anecdotally in at least two other colleges, we feel this issue is now of University concern. Academic Freedom was defined and articulated with the founding of the American Association of University Professors.

In fact, the point of the AAUP was to defend the principle of Academic Freedom. John Dewey and Arthur Lovejoy founded the AAUP and Dewey became its first President. (For a classic history see Hofstadter and Metzger, 1955.) The 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure specifically, "Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution" (p. 3). Georgia Southern University in its own Faculty Handbook, p. 46, Section 201 bases its own definition of Academic Freedom on the AAUP Policy Documents and Reports specifically citing the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure. Louis Menand, Harvard professor and staff writer for the New Yorker, wrote of

Academic Freedom as “the philosophical key to the whole enterprise of higher education” (p. 131). He goes on to note that academic freedom allows professors to pursue inquiry wherever it might lead even if the results are unpopular or even offensive. Information must be pursued without restraint and professors cannot be punished for exploring information or ideas in the classroom (Hacker & Dreifus, 2010). Further: External funding requires external approval of the academic inquiry and therefore by its very nature requires that scholars/researchers bend their endeavors to please the external funders. Fund raising is not listed as separate criteria in either BOR or GSU faculty documentation. AAUP Policy Documents and Reports: 10th edition (2006). Washington, D.C.: American Association of University Professors. Hacker, A. & Dreifus, C. (2010). Higher education?: How colleges are wasting our money and failing our kids-and what we can do about it. New York: Holt. Hofstadter, R. & Metzger, W.P. (1955). The development of academic freedom in the United States. New York: Columbia University Press. Menand, L (2010). The marketplace of ideas. New York: W.W. Norton. This resolution passed the Georgia Southern University AAUP chapter unanimously.

SEC Response:

Minutes: 4/5/2011: The SEC did not approve the AAUP's Request for a Motion, but did approve a Request for Discussion of the proposed motion. Please note that the SEC revised this request to a Request for Discussion; the AAUP then withdrew its request.

The request read as follows: “We move that the Faculty Senate of Georgia Southern University approve the following resolution: The AAUP Resolution. Motion: We resolve the following: That requiring faculty to show evidence of applying for external funding for purposes of tenure, promotion, post tenure review and/or yearly evaluation is a violation of academic freedom. Any restriction on the kind and nature of faculty research violates the hallmark of academic inquiry, the unfettered pursuit of knowledge. Violations of Academic Freedom affect all faculty in every college.” The rationale behind the request stated that “Faculty members in all units are affected by policies for promotion and tenure.”

The SEC declined to include this as a motion, but wanted it to be included it as a discussion. The President of the AAUP Chapter at Georgia Southern was informed of that decision and he indicated that the AAUP preferred that their motion be a motion and that it not be a discussion item. He then asked the SEC to withdraw the motion/discussion item from the agenda. Chair Krug stated that “the SEC had two major concerns” which would be discussed at a later point in the agenda.

1. Is it a violation of academic freedom for a college to require specific outcomes for tenure and promotion? (Please refer to The Faculty Handbook, Section 201, and to Resolutions #1-#4 presented by the Ad Hoc Committee on Shared Governance and adopted by the Faculty Senate [on February 17 and March 22, 2011.]

2. a. When evaluating a faculty member who applies for tenure, may a department or college apply criteria other than those in place when the faculty member was hired?

b. When evaluating a faculty member who applies for promotion, may a department or college apply criteria other than those in place when the faculty member was hired?