

REPORT OF THE UofL AAUP

October, 2017

Updates on on-going activities:

We are still in the process of analyzing results of the shared governance survey and plan to have a report to share with the campus community by the end of the Fall semester.

The rally-type event that the AAUP was planning to be held this October has been canceled.

AAUP has created a website (<http://tenurematters.org>) that is dedicated to supporting and publishing stories that demonstrate the value of the tenure system in higher education, and specifically here at UofL. We are seeking anecdotes and opinions contributed by university faculty of all ranks – those who are tenured and tenure track as well as adjuncts. Our goal is to educate those who may be unfamiliar with the tenure system and to communicate the necessary role that tenure plays in fulfilling the academic mission of universities. We encourage you to let your colleagues know about the site and contribute your own tenure story.

Current Activities:

Currently, our leading issue has been the Presidential search, which the Board of Trustees has decided will be a closed search.

AAUP Executive Committee sent a letter on Sept 27 to the Board of Trustees noting our objection to the implementation of a closed Presidential Search, which violates Redbook-policy and AAUP national best practices by excluding the elected Faculty Consultation Committee (PSFCC) from participation in the search. We also object to the fact that the wider campus community will not have the chance to review finalists during on-campus visits. A closed search violates past practices at UofL and is a highly contentious practice. We note that many public universities with higher academic rankings than UofL have recently conducted or are conducting open searches. Mr. Grissom, Chair of the Board, has sent a reply (which for some reason was addressed to both the AAUP and the PSFCC) rejecting our request for the search to be opened. Copies of the correspondence are being forwarded along with this document. The Executive Committee is in the process of drafting a new reply, reiterating our concerns.

Members of AAUP and other concerned faculty held up signs and protested at the Board of Trustees meeting on Oct 2, requesting the Presidential Search to be opened.

It is our opinion that an open search is critical for ensuring transparency of process and the selection of a candidate who will be welcomed by faculty, staff and students and ultimately successful in moving UofL forward. We encourage all faculty to get involved in this important issue.

Several members of the AAUP Executive Committee have volunteered to work with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in reviewing “best practice” tenure policies of benchmark universities. The information will be used by the new Board of Trustees’ Ad-Hoc committee on “Tenure and Nepotism” to make recommendations about UofL policies and procedures to the full Board.

AAUP asks Senate members to spread the news about AAUP activities and encourage faculty to join. AAUP dues are determined by an income-based sliding scale, may be paid on a yearly or monthly basis, and are tax deductible.

