

REPORT OF THE UofL AAUP

September, 2017

Updates:

In spring of 2017, AAUP conducted a survey of faculty experiences in shared governance on campus. We are in the process of analyzing results and plan to have a report to share with the campus community, ideally by the end of the Fall semester.

Current Activities:

AAUP is currently focused on the recent creation in July by the Board of Trustees of a new Ad-Hoc committee on "Tenure and Nepotism." The Ad-Hoc Committee was charged with reviewing tenure policies and procedures at UofL, comparing them to "best practices" at other universities, and making a recommendation about UofL policies and procedures to the full Board by November, 2017. Especially given the Committee's dual focus on "tenure and nepotism," which suggests an equivalency between the two, we are concerned the Committee may have the goal of challenging or weakening tenure policy at UofL. We believe this would have disastrous consequences for the University.

We are planning several activities in order to raise public and Board awareness around the vital role that tenure plays in protecting the faculty's ability to express ideas freely and participate effectively in shared governance.

First, AAUP is creating a website (which should be up and running within the next few days) 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 will be seeking anecdotes and opinions contributed by university faculty of all ranks - those who are tenured and tenure track as well as adjuncts. Once again, 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 all faculty to explore the site and contribute your own tenure story. We will be distributing the website link to faculty as soon as the site is ready.

Second, AAUP plans on hosting a rally-type event in mid-October. We are inviting campus leaders, administrators, faculty, and students to attend the event to discuss further the role of tenure in enabling academic freedom, shared governance, and the academic mission of the university. The precise date for the event is TBA.

On a related, but slightly different note, AAUP is in the process of developing "Know Your Rights" and "Know Your Shared Governance" campaigns for faculty to be implemented sometime in the current school year. AAUP will be distributing cards and flyers listing resources and contact information for faculty to better understand existing policies and procedures that

protect faculty members' rights to due process, as well as to understand the basic principles of shared governance.

Finally, 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. We have attached a copy of our new recruiting flyer, and we encourage you to forward to your departments and any other faculty who might be interested.

Thank you kindly for your support.