

RESOLUTION OF AAUP

In 1973, the University of Arkansas System included campuses at Fayetteville (UAF), Little Rock (UALR and UAMS), Monticello (UAM) and Pine Bluff (UAPB). Although each of these campuses possessed unique mechanisms for faculty governance, all accepted certain common principles and adhered to procedures published in the faculty handbooks. Included among these principles were tenure and academic freedom. Since 1996, the University of Arkansas System has grown from the original five campuses to include a wide range of two-year colleges. On none of these two-year campuses do the faculties enjoy the rights and privileges as well as the responsibilities of tenure, and without tenure, academic freedom is at risk. One of these campuses, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, has been on the list of Censured Administrations of the American Association of University Professors since 1978.

At the present time, the University of Arkansas System is completing the process of absorbing Westark Community College in Fort Smith. While a limited number of the Westark faculty have tenure, since the 1998-1999 academic year, newly hired faculty members at that institution have not been eligible for tenure. In addition, a small number of faculty members from Arkansas Tech University, Arkansas State University, and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock currently teach courses at Westark and, according to press reports, will be added to the faculty of the future University of Arkansas at Fort Smith which will be offering the baccalaureate degree in selected fields of study. It is unclear whether these faculty members will be forced to relinquish previously earned rights and privileges in order to become new faculty members at UAFS.

We, as active and emeriti members of the faculty of the University of Arkansas, the original campus of our system, and members of the Guerdon Nichols Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, do hereby petition the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, the system administration, and the administration of each of the member campuses of the University of Arkansas System, in consultation and cooperation with members of the faculty, to immediately address the present confusing, unequal, and discriminatory situation existing in faculty governance, procedures, tenure, and academic freedom throughout the system by:

1. Taking the necessary steps to remove any member campus from the American Association of University Professors list of Censured Administrations;
2. Establishing a uniform set of procedures for faculty governance based upon the 1940 "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure" of the American Association of University Professors and the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees policy number 405.1;
3. Guaranteeing academic freedom through the enforcement of those uniform procedures;
4. Protecting the economic and professional interests of part-time and adjunct faculty members;
5. Instituting tenure, an essential guarantor of academic freedom, on all campuses of the University of Arkansas System.