

# AAUP

American Association of University Professors

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*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

October 9, 2007

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Dr. Scott S. Cowen  
President  
Tulane University  
6823 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70118-5698

Dear President Cowen:

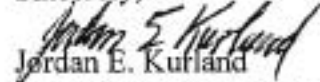
I am prompted to write to you about AAUP's censure in the context of the October 1 meeting of the Tulane University Senate and the adoption by that body, following discussion in which you participated, of amended "Interim Principles and Procedures for Faculty Terminations Due to Financial Exigency."

This is certainly an encouraging step, and the senate is to be commended for its good work. I shall share the document with a subcommittee of our Committee A with whom our staff consults regarding post-Katrina New Orleans questions. We may want to offer specific suggestions for you and the senate to consider before further action is taken. I expect I shall be asked about the status of the document, and particularly what "interim" is intended to mean. Are the principles and procedures official policy at Tulane pending final action on including them in the Faculty Handbook? Or do you look upon them, until then, more as an informal guide?

You informed us last spring that you did not intend to go to the board with recommended changes in the Faculty Handbook until the board acts to end the state of financial exigency that it declared two years ago. Why financial exigency remains in effect is increasingly unclear to us. Tulane is unique among the New Orleans universities in still asserting financial exigency, news accounts that include Tulane's own press releases depict steadily improving financial health, and the sense of urgency and uncertainty that triggered declaring financial exigency has surely passed. We would welcome knowing your current thoughts on the matter.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

  
Jordan E. Kurland  
Associate General Secretary

cc: Professor James A. Mackin, Jr. Secretary, University Senate  
Professor Linda L. Carroll, President, AAUP chapter