

AAUP

American Association of University Professors

MAY 17 2006

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

May 10, 2006

VIA PRIORITY MAIL

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

Dear President Cowen:

I wrote on April 21 to inform you of the special committee being established by us to inquire into and report on the numerous AAUP concerns that have emerged at the various New Orleans universities following Hurricane Katrina. I said we would be writing again to identify the members of the special committee and to indicate how it plans to proceed.

The following professors constitute the membership of our Special Committee on Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans Universities:

- *Robert M. O'Neil* (Law), University of Virginia, *chair*
- *Norma C. Cook* (Speech Communication), University of Tennessee
- *Matthew W. Finkin* (Law), University of Illinois
- *Myron S. Henry* (Mathematics), University of Southern Mississippi
- *Hirschel Kasper* (Economics), Oberlin College
- *Lorenzo Morris* (Political Science), Howard University
- *Lawrence S. Poston* (English), University of Illinois, Chicago
- *Linda Ray Pratt* (English), University of Nebraska
- *Peter O. Steiner* (Economics and Law), University of Michigan

Professor O'Neil's service to higher education over the decades, as you doubtless know, includes presidencies of the University of Wisconsin System and the University of Virginia. Four other special committee members have held significant university administrative offices during the course of their careers. Additionally, the members of the special committee have been prominent in AAUP's leadership. Included among them are former Association presidents, officers and governing Council members, general



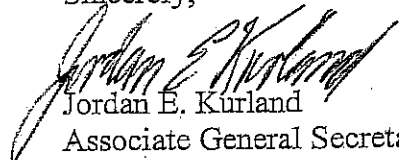
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counsel, and chairs and members not only of our Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure and its *ad hoc* investigating committees but also of our Committee on College and University Governance and our Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession.

The special committee will be convening for a preliminary meeting in Washington on May 24, on which occasion it will be discussing information thus far available from the several New Orleans institutions and planning how its work will proceed in the weeks and months ahead. A series of meetings with interested persons in New Orleans during the course of the summer is anticipated, and the next meeting of the full committee, in New Orleans, is contemplated before the summer's end.

As stated in my April 21 letter, we shall of course welcome your cooperation with respect to Tulane University as the special committee proceeds with its task. For now, we shall appreciate having any comments you may have or information you may wish us to consider at the committee's initial meeting later this month.

Sincerely,


Jordan E. Kurland
Associate General Secretary

cc: Ms. Catherine D. Pierson, Chair, Board of Administrators
Professor Parviz Rastgoufard, President, AAUP Chapter
Professor Linda L. Carroll, AAUP Council, District V
Professor Alvin Burstein, President, Louisiana Conference AAUP
Special Committee