

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE FALL MEETING

This Saturday, October 19

Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville

President's Conference Room, Derryberry Hall

Click [here](#) for a printable campus map and link to directions to campus

Schedule (all welcome; members please bring guests; no registration or fees)

9:30 a.m. Social time

10 a.m. Welcome from TTU Administration followed by an update by Professor Alfred Lutz, MTSU and TBR Faculty Sub-Council Member on Academic Freedom and the Recently Revised TBR Policy on Academic Freedom

10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Faculty Handbooks and Senate Constitutions, chaired by Professor Tom Banning, University of Memphis

Noon to 1 p.m.: Lunch break

1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (as needed): Business meeting

Questions? Please contact local organizer Professor Troy Smith (tdsmith@tnitech.edu)

An update on academic freedom in Tennessee from member Dr. Alfred Lutz

Dear Fellow AAUP Members,

As you know, the TBR Faculty Sub-Council has been working for several years on convincing TBR to agree to a revision of the TBR Academic Freedom Policy (TBR Policy 5:02:03:30) in light of *Garcetti v. Ceballos*, a Supreme Court decision that left shared-governance speech unprotected.

I am happy to report that the Board approved the proposal developed by the TBR Faculty Sub-Council (with help from members of the Chief Academic Officers Sub-Council and the Presidents' Council) at its meeting this past weekend. This is a major success for all of us, and it will at some point in the future save somebody's job.

I have taken the liberty to attach three documents:

1) A [handout](#) I produced several years ago to highlight the threat *Garcetti v. Ceballos* poses to faculty speech.

2) The TBR Academic Freedom [Policy](#) (changes marked in red).

3) An essay by Professor Judith [Areen](#) (Georgetown Law) putting this issue in a historical context.

I should add that the people who did the heavy lifting in this process were almost all AAUP members. Because most of the work we do is confidential, sometimes, as you know, recruiting new members is difficult. **This success, however, can serve as a perfect recruitment tool. It directly affects every faculty member. I hope you'll use it to show prospective members that the AAUP is a strong voice in helping the faculty play its role as a crucial stakeholder in higher education.**

Best,

Alfred Lutz

MTSU TBR Faculty Sub-Council Representative

President-Elect, MTSU AAUP Chapter