



Threats to Academic Freedom — “Stop It!”

On Sun. Nov. 13 on *60 Minutes* President Elect Donald Trump responded to Lesley Stahl’s reports of some of his followers’ hate crimes, telling them: “Stop it! Stop it!” During this election season, there were plenty of examples of hateful speech. After the results of the election, groups who were special targets of these attacks — people of color, women, LGBTQ folk — were especially uneasy. At Tennessee Tech, the latter group of students felt very threatened the day after the election, especially because the truck of a transgender woman (who is, incidentally a disabled veteran with a small child) was burned outside her home just a few days before the election in Cookeville, home to TTU. “Trump” was spray painted on her truck before it was burned. Such attacks have been prevalent across the country.

At TTU a courageous faculty advisor of LAMBDA responded to the fears of the students with reassurance, and was so moved that she sent an e-mail asking for the university to support students who had received threats or who were affected by post election aggression. Apparently another faculty member who had received the e-mail was enraged and wrote an angry reply to the advisor of LAMBDA, and then went on to send her e-mail to a blog called *Daily Rollcall* <<https://dailyrollcall.com/>> The e-mail, along with a Facebook excerpt from the Professor (see p. 4 for her comment) was posted on the *Daily Rollcall* under the title of “Are Tennessee Tech’s Liberal Professors Able to Treat all Students Fair [sic]?” The blogger mistakenly claimed that the Professor had written the whole e-mail when much of it was from Rudy Fichtenbaum’s letter addressed to the AAUP post-election. (Later corrected).

Some of the comments the faculty member got include: “So conservative students who voted for, and support President Elect Trump can expect to receive different treatment from “most” professors at Tennessee Tech University. Professor [name withheld] obviously is not able to separate her personal beliefs from those of her profession, teaching German“ ; “I have had her class before. She has been eligible to become a U.S citizen for years now, but refuses to get citizenship. . . If she doesn’t like something about here, she should get citizenship and vote” ; “ I am concerned about the impact of your socialist, leftist views on our kids. Condemn him before he starts while we recover from 8 years of Obama’s genius“ ; “Leave! If Trump is so bad, leave the country. Join liberal hollywood [sic] and get the heck out of here! We don’t have room for scumbags like you. Get the hell outta here! “ The notion that a faculty member’s personal beliefs might make them unable to teach students is chilling— especially because there was nothing in the e-mail that indicated personal beliefs (though the blogger also excerpted a Facebook post).

If it weren’t so horrifying it would be fascinating to contemplate how all of the pre-occupations and obsessions of then candidate Trump and some followers are illustrated here: a woman, immigrant, foreign resident (legal), defends LGBTQ Folk and gets attacked. Horrifying is the assumption that the Professor will inculcate her students with her “liberal” views. There are many, many calls elsewhere on social media for the Professor to be fired; people are saying they will not donate to the university until she is fired; and ‘no one should be teaching at a university with such views.’ While President Elect Trump is sounding a temperate message now, some of his followers certainly are not. What can you do? Ask your friends to consider joining AAUP to ensure that faculty rights are protected! — J. McQuail

NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO UNITE

We recognize that faculty are divided by discipline, by institutional type by employment status, as well as by race, religion, gender, and politics. But now is the time for us to unite, organize and fight, not only for ourselves but for the common good, not only by ourselves but with allies both inside and outside of academia. The future is still in our hands. There is nothing to gain and much to be lost from resignation and despair.. — Rudy Fichtenbaum , AAUP President, Howard Bunsis, AAUP-CBC chair, Henry Reichman, Committee A on Academic Freedom & Tenure

In This Issue

- Threats to Academic Freedom (1)
- AAUP State Conference Meeting 11/12/16 (2)
- News from Your AAUP Legislative Liaison (3)
- Activities of TN Conference Members (3)
- Outsourcing, Again? (p. 3)
- TN Conference Webpage (3)
- Join the AAUP (4)
- AAUP National Convention deadline for papers (4)

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE MEETING 11/12/16 AT MTSU

The Tennessee Conference of the AAUP met in Murfreesboro, hosted by Middle Tennessee State University. The meeting was coordinated by MTSU AAUP chapter president Dr. Pippa Holloway. AAUP representatives from University of Memphis, Tennessee Technological University, Nashville State Community College, LeMoyne-Owen College, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, MTSU, Vanderbilt, and another private college were in attendance. Attendees discussed the implementation of local boards at 4 year state universities, the new Lecturer position and the threat it presents to tenure, the continued reliance on adjunct (contingent) labor at colleges and universities and other matters.

The conference hopes to revive the TN AAUP foundation account, and to bring a speaker to various universities and colleges in the spring for an event on free speech and freedom of expression. The AAUP provided food for the meeting and AAUP members from all over the state had a chance to talk and network during the day. Come to our next state conference meeting. The date and place is not yet fixed but will be announced via e-mail and the webpage.

NATIONAL AAUP PRESIDENT RUDY FICHTENBAUM, et al. — e-mail, 11/9/16

We in the AAUP and AAUP-CBC pledge to redouble our efforts to

- Oppose the privatization of our public higher education system and fight for higher education as a common good, accessible and affordable to all.
- Oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin and fight for an equitable and welcoming educational environment in which all can freely and safely learn, discuss, differ, debate, and grow.
- Oppose violations of academic freedom and of the broader rights to free expression in the academic community and fight for strengthened protections for and renewed commitment to the principles of the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure and the 1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities.
- Oppose attacks on unions and the economic security of college and university faculty and staff and fight for expanding and strengthening the rights of all faculty members—tenure-track, contingent, and graduate employees—to organize and bargain collectively.



The spring AAUP TN Conference meeting at TTU, April 2016

The Tennessee Conference of the AAUP at the National Convention, June 2016

Dora Estes attended the National Convention in Washington D.C in June and received a grant from the Assembly of State Conferences. Ms. Estes served as a delegate to the Assembly of State Conferences.

Dr. Josie McQuail, TTU, TN conference President as well as outgoing secretary for the Assembly of State Conferences, also attended the national convention. and served as delegate to the Assembly of State Conferences.

Would you like to serve as a delegate to the National Conference in Washington, D.C., or read a paper? Funding is available — see p. 4 for deadline for papers.

Coley's Corner: News from the Legislature, 2015-26

In the fall of 2015, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam proposed a major reorganization of one of the state's two higher education systems, the Board of Regents (TBR). The most significant change was the removal of the six universities from the system and the creation of individual boards that would be responsible for the governance of each institution. Because this change had the potential to affect faculty in significant ways, including policies on shared governance, tenure and promotion, workload and other key items, the Tennessee Conference undertook an effort, working with the Governor's point man on higher ed and key legislators, to ensure that the statute contained language that acknowledged the role of faculty in governance and curriculum matters. We succeeded in getting a faculty representative, chosen by each institution's Faculty Senate for a two-year term, as a voting member on the new boards. We were also able to get some changes in the language defining the powers of the boards with respect to faculty. Now that the new boards have been appointed, the focus will shift to the individual campuses as each institution adapts to the new governance system. AAUP chapters, working with Faculty Senates and their board representative, must work to ensure that these boards are held to account when it comes to adopting policies and procedures affecting the rights and responsibilities of faculty. — **Coley McGinnis, TSU, Emeritus Professor, is past president and Legislative Liaison for the TN Conference**

More Outsourcing? Governor Haslam Is Determined to Continue Outsourcing Services— The Schedule for Further Outsourcing of State University Services Is:

RFP to be issued Dec. 1, deadline of Jan. 26

Vendor interviews, Jan. 30 and 31

Notice of intent and files open to the public, Feb. 16 -26

State sends contract, Feb. 27

Contracts signed, March 3

Do you know where your Institution stands on further outsourcing?

Tennessee Conference of the AAUP Website

The Tennessee conference applied for and received a Conference Development Grant of \$1,000 from the national Assembly of State Conferences in 2014. The website's URL is <taaup.org>. On the website you will find past minutes of meetings, newsletters, archives, announcements, articles, and links to Tennessee chapters of the AAUP as well as to the national AAUP. Thanks are due to Professor Emeritus J. F. Thompson of Austin Peay State University for his provision of files from the old website and support.



AAUP ANNUAL CONFERENCE June 14-18, Washington, D. C. 2017 AAUP Annual Conference: The Rights and Freedoms of Students — deadline Dec. 13 for submissions

In 1967, during a period of intense student protests, the AAUP and four other groups issued a *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students*. Many issues covered in the statement are as pertinent fifty years later as they were in 1967, and the AAUP invites proposals for presentations focused on these issues (and others) for our 2017 Annual Conference. For questions e-mail: proposal@aaup.org

YOUR TENNESSEE CONFERENCE OFFICERS :

President: Josie McQuail, TTU jmcquail@tntech.edu
Vice President for Four Year Universities: Julia Gruber, TTU juliabaker@tntech.edu
Vice President for Private Universities: vacant
Vice President for Community Colleges: Diane Eagle Nashville State Tech [<ouezzane3891@yahoo.com>](mailto:ouezzane3891@yahoo.com)
Secretary: Yvonne Simerman, NSCC, [<yvonne112562@att.net>](mailto:yvonne112562@att.net)
Treasurer: Dora Estes, NSCC dorasts6@gmail.com
Past President; Legislative Liaison: Coley McGinnis, Emeritus, Tennessee State U, coleymac@comcast.net

*(continued from p. 1) "I have tried my entire life to turn back abusive, racist, rude, belittling, hateful, and bullying behavior. In the wake of the election, it seems to me that the people who think behaving in those abusive manners, have for now ratified it before the world. In a moment of frustration with this unexpected turn of events, I made a comment on Facebook which, upon reflection, does not represent how I actually feel or will ever behave. Like every human, I am far from perfect and in this case I commented imperfectly. I offer my apologies to all and assure all that I will continue as before to try to stand up as an example against demeaning behavior towards others regardless of what they think or how they might act towards me or anyone." — statement from Professor after vilification in the right wing blog *Daily Rollcall*.

THE AAUP believes that higher education is a fundamental human right to which freedom of inquiry and expression are integral.

Dr, Josephine A. McQuail
President, AAUP TN State Conference
Professor of English
Box 5053
Tennessee Technological University
Cookeville TN 38505

JOIN AAUP

Your AAUP membership gives you exclusive access to the expertise of AAUP staff, members, and leaders. Our lineup of guidebooks, toolkits, and webinars put the resources to defend academic freedom, ensure economic security, and advance faculty governance for all faculty at your fingertips.

When you join the AAUP, make sure you sign up to pay dues to your state conference — we do a lot for you! Our legislative Liaison Coley McGinnis has made a difference for us this year by getting concessions with the legislature (see p. 3). <http://www.aaup.org/membership/join>

Many professional development opportunities are available to AAUP members, and through AAUP you can help keep guard the quality of higher ed in TN and protect faculty

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