

This is the second issue of the *Bulletin of the American Association of University Professors*. As my former staff colleague Eric Combest noted in his editorial introduction to the inaugural issue, the *Bulletin*, the AAUP's journal of record, gathers together in one annual volume the previous year's investigative reports on academic freedom and tenure and on governance, other reports of standing and ad hoc committees, new and revised policy documents, and selected other official documents. Investigative and other important reports are now being posted on the Association's website as soon as they are ready for publication (in what follows I have given the date of online publication of each report in parentheses). As Eric also noted, the *Bulletin* is published each September and sent to all *Academe* subscribers with the September–October issue of that magazine.

This issue includes two reports of academic freedom and tenure investigations—at Bethune-Cookman University in Florida (October 2010) and at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge (July 2011). The Bethune-Cookman administration suspended and then dismissed four professors accused of sexual harassment, two with tenure, without having demonstrated adequate cause in an adjudicative hearing, and it terminated the services of three other professors without advance notice, without having afforded academic due process, and in two cases without the protections of due process required under provisions of the 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure*. The LSU report discusses two cases. The first is that of a well-known

coastal geologist and hurricane researcher with seventeen years on the faculty whom the administration separated from service after he persisted in asserting, contrary to the prevailing position of the LSU administrative authorities on the matter, that the cause of most of the flooding and the resulting deaths in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina was the structural failure of the levees, for which the US Army Corps of Engineers bore responsibility. The investigating committee found that in terminating his services the LSU administration not only did not afford the professor requisite protections of academic due process but also acted in retaliation for his position on the failure of the levees, thereby violating his academic freedom as a research scientist and as a citizen. The second case concerns a long-serving tenured professor of biology who was summarily removed by her college dean from an introductory course she had volunteered to teach. The dean acted upon the recommendation of the course coordinator and chair, who had deemed her mid-term grades to be too low and who subsequently changed her grades without consulting her. The investigating committee concluded that the LSU administration violated the professor's right to assign student grades and, in peremptorily removing her from the course, violated her academic freedom as a teacher. In June 2011, the AAUP's Ninety-seventh Annual Meeting voted to add Bethune-Cookman University to the Association's list of censured administrations; at its June 2012 meeting, Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure will review the status of the LSU cases and determine whether to

recommend adding LSU, Baton Rouge, to that list.

The two governance reports printed in this volume are twins in at least one major respect: they both involve action by an administration and governing board to suspend a faculty senate. At Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (January 2011), the governing board and administration suspended the faculty senate after its leaders rejected the board's demand that they amend the senate constitution to exclude non-tenure-track faculty from the senate's constituency and membership, even though most faculty in full-time non-tenure-track appointments had previously been included. At Idaho State University (May 2011), the board, at the administration's urging, suspended the faculty senate after several years of faculty-administration clashes over issues of academic governance. The conflict culminated in a faculty vote of no confidence in the president one week before the board meeting at which the action was taken to suspend the senate. At both institutions, the administration imposed interim governance structures that severely circumscribed the faculty's decision-making role, particularly in areas where the faculty traditionally exercises primary responsibility. Upon the recommendation of the Committee on College and University Governance, delegates at the AAUP's 2011 annual meeting voted to add RPI and ISU to the list of institutions sanctioned for "substantial noncompliance with generally accepted standards of academic government."

Subcommittee reports included in this issue of the *Bulletin* are *Recommendations on Partner*

*Accommodation and Dual-Career Appointments* (September 2010) and *Ensuring Academic Freedom in Politically Controversial Academic Personnel Decisions* (August 2011). The first report, written by a subcommittee of the Committee on Women in the Academic Profession and approved by the parent committee, provides guidance to faculty members and administrators seeking fair and effective ways of accommodating faculty members, particularly women faculty members, who seek appointments at the same institution as their spouses or domestic partners. It provides a comprehensive overview of the wide variety of partner-accommodation programs already available to dual-career academic couples at many colleges and universities and offers general recommendations based significantly on existing AAUP policies on academic governance, on faculty appointments, and on academic work and family responsibilities. *Ensuring Academic Freedom*, produced by a subcommittee of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, was posted online for comment in February 2011, revised in light of extensive comments received, and approved in final form by Committee A at its June meeting. This major study surveys the history of political intrusions into academic personnel decisions, especially during the McCarthy era; identifies weaknesses in the principles and decision-making procedures that currently safeguard academic freedom; and recommends enhanced protections in the conduct of these cases. In its recommendations, the report places primary emphasis on the fundamental AAUP principle that all academic personnel deci-

sions should be based primarily on judgments related to the faculty member's performance in his or her professional capacity and that political considerations should not play a role in such decisions.

The remainder of this volume contains, under Annual Reports and Other Business, the reports of the two semiannual Council meetings, the annual reports of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure and of the Committee on College and University Governance, the current list of Association officers and Council members, and the current rosters of the Association's committees and governing boards.

—Gregory F. Scholtz