

1956–1969

A Rein vigorated AAUP

In the late 1950s and the 1960s, the AAUP expanded its work into new areas. The Association's legal program, begun in 1958, had a great success nine years later when the US Supreme Court cited academic freedom concerns in its ruling in *Keyishian v. Board of Regents*. Committee T on College and University Government, meanwhile, launched the first investigation into infringements of governance standards and played a key role in drafting the joint 1966 *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*. Committee A, responding to the student activism that characterized the era, for the first time formally addressed the rights and freedoms of students. Conferences and chapters began to assert their voices through new organizational structures. All the while, the Association's membership rolls, riding the tide of the massive postwar expansion in higher education, were strong and growing.

The work of the AAUP during this period was influenced by cultural changes that were particularly evident in America's colleges and universities. The Association reached its fiftieth anniversary at a time of ferment, less than a year after the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and only weeks after Free Speech Movement leader Mario Savio told fellow students, in his famous speech at the University of California, Berkeley, "There's a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious . . . you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop."

1956

Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure issues the first part of *Academic Freedom and Tenure in the Quest for National Security*, an investigation of multiple cases that had been neglected in the preceding years. Unprecedented in its scope, the report does much to repair the Association's reputation as a defender of academic freedom and due process.



Ralph F. Fuchs, the AAUP's general secretary from 1955 to 1957

1964 *The Civil Rights Act becomes law.*

1965

The AAUP establishes the Special Committee on the Representation of Economic Interests to consider extending the activities of the Association into collective bargaining.

1966

Professors at St. John's University begin the first major US faculty strike over the administration's summary dismissal of a group of their colleagues. The AAUP conducts an investigation into the administration's actions but does not support the strike.



Students rally in support of striking faculty members at St. John's University.

The AAUP issues its central policy document on the faculty's role in governance, the 1966 *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*. Formulated jointly by the AAUP, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the statement calls for cooperation among faculties, administrations, and governing boards and notes that the faculty should have "primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process."

1957

Committee A formulates the first version of the *Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure*. These recommended regulations, derived from the Association's key statements, are subsequently integrated into the policies of colleges and universities across the United States.

The US Supreme Court upholds the right of Paul Sweezy, a university lecturer, to decline to answer questions posed by a state body investigating subversive activities. Justice Felix Frankfurter, in his concurrence in Sweezy v. New Hampshire, establishes the constitutional doctrine of academic freedom when he cites "four essential freedoms of a university—to determine for itself on academic grounds who may teach, what may be taught, how it shall be taught, and who may be admitted to study."

1958

The AAUP enters the legal arena, filing its first amicus brief in the US Supreme Court on behalf of Lloyd Barenblatt, a University of Michigan teaching fellow who had refused to answer questions posed by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

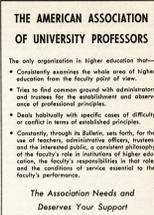
1959

The Council of State and Regional Conferences, the predecessor to the AAUP's Assembly of State Conferences, is organized and holds its first meeting.

The annual meeting approves an amendment to the AAUP's constitution that replaces the system of membership by nomination with one of membership by application; membership exceeds forty thousand.

1960

Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure begins to address the issue of students' academic freedom in response to what committee chair David Fellman describes as "events around the country, and particularly in the South" that confronted students "with many questions which in some fashion relate to their general claim to academic freedom," including "students' activities in connection with the desegregation controversy."



AAUP advertisement, 1960

Monmouth College and the University of Miami become the first institutions to be investigated by Committee T for infringements of governance standards.

1963

Faculty members at Nassau Community College form the first AAUP chapter on a community college campus.

1967

In a development of which the national AAUP is initially unaware, faculty members at Belleville Area College (now Southwestern Illinois College) vote to designate their chapter as their exclusive representative in bargaining, making it the first AAUP collective bargaining chapter.



The first issue of Academe, which began as a newsletter in 1967

The US Supreme Court holds in Keyishian v. Board of Regents that states cannot terminate the appointments of faculty members on the basis of their refusal to sign a loyalty oath disavowing membership in the Communist Party.



Martin Luther King Jr. speaks against the war in Vietnam at the Saint Paul campus of the University of Minnesota in April 1967.

A committee including representatives from the AAUP and from student and administrator groups formulates the *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students*.

1968

The AAUP publishes the first edition of *Policy Documents and Reports*, better known as the Redbook.



Table of contents of the first edition of the Redbook

The AAUP issues *The Role of the Faculty in the Accrediting of Colleges and Universities*.

1969

AAUP membership peaks at around seventy-eight thousand.

Our Nation is deeply committed to safeguarding academic freedom, which is of transcendent value to all of us and not merely to the teachers concerned. That freedom is therefore a special concern of the First Amendment, which does not tolerate laws that cast a pall of orthodoxy over the classroom.

—JUSTICE WILLIAM BRENNAN, WRITING IN HIS MAJORITY RULING IN *KEYISHIAN V. BOARD OF REGENTS* (1967)



100 YEARS OF DEFENDING
aaup
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS
ACADEMIC FREEDOM