July 19, 2013

AAUP Urges SLU President to Take Corrective Action

Reacting to information shared by leaders of the Faculty Senate and of the local AAUP chapter at Saint Louis University (SLU) regarding recent actions by SLU President Lawrence Biondi, the AAUP wrote a letter to him. The letter reminds Biondi that by reducing the recommended salary increases for numerous faculty members who have been vocal critics of him, his reported actions have raised basic issues of academic freedom. The AAUP’s letter further cites an AAUP document that states, “The protection of the academic freedom of faculty members in addressing issues of institutional governance is a prerequisite for the practice of governance unhampered by fear of retribution” and urges him to take appropriate corrective action.

Update: On August 9, the AAUP wrote Biondi a follow-up letter urging upon "further reflection you will not want the concluding chapter of your legacy to be actions that call into serious question your commitment to principles of academic freedom. We urge again that you rectify the situation."