July 9, 2018

AAUP to Investigate Cases of Three Professors at St. Edward's University

Washington, DC—The AAUP has appointed a committee to formally investigate three cases at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. One case involves the dismissal of two long-serving tenured associate professors without affording them academic due process, and the other the nonrenewal of a tenure-track assistant professor without providing adequate notice and an appropriate appeal procedure.

The AAUP authorized the investigation because the St. Edward's administration, in acting against the three professors, appears to have done so in a manner sharply at odds with Association-recommended procedural standards and for reasons that may have violated their academic freedom. The investigating committee will examine the available facts and will interview involved faculty members and administrative officers in order to draw its conclusions on these issues and prepare a report for publication. The committee will be conducting its on-site inquiries on August 3 and 4.

AAUP investigating committees are appointed in a few select cases annually in which severe departures from widely accepted principles and standards on academic freedom, tenure, or governance have been alleged and persist despite efforts to resolve them. Investigating committees are composed of faculty members from other institutions with no previous involvement in the matter. If the investigating committee’s published report finds that serious violations have occurred and an appropriate resolution cannot be achieved, the AAUP may place an institution on its censure list, which informs the academic community and the public that conditions for academic freedom at the institution are unsound.