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# Report of the Committee on College and University Governance, 2024–25

The relative lack of business in this year’s report of the Committee on College and University Governance is by no means a reflection of the members’ investment in the work of the committee. It is instead due to the committee’s being in limbo after the terms of several members, including the chair, expired in August 2024. During a period of interim leadership in the national office that continued for more than seven months following the election of a new slate of officers, no reappointments or new appointments were made.

In January 2025, the committee membership from the previous year was asked to provide its feedback and vote on the statement *On Anticipatory Obedience*, drafted by a joint subcommittee of the committee and Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure. The committee voted to approve the statement, which was released on January 23, 2025.

Upon being fully constituted in February, the committee formed a subcommittee to examine interference in institutional governance by the federal government, state legislatures, and the other “outside agencies” listed in the headnote to the *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*.

The committee has also begun planning for a shared governance conference to be held immediately before the AAUP Biennial Meeting in June 2026. The last governance conference was held online in 2021 during the pandemic; the last in-person governance conference took place in 2016.

The committee notes in closing a vote taken by the AAUP’s governing Council in November 2024 to approve a motion “for all committees to send to Council for approval all position statements by the AAUP.” The committee was informed that this resolution allows for the Council to “not approve” such statements, which were defined as “policy statements of position and not investigations and reports” in the discussion of the motion. Although the ramifications

of the motion are unclear at this point, the committee would emphasize the following statement from its report last year: “The description and standing charges of the Committee on College and University Governance . . . do not allow for Council priorities to circumscribe the committee’s work. The Council’s responsibilities, as they are listed in Article IV, Section 2 of the AAUP Constitution, also do not provide for direct oversight of the committee’s work.”

I thank the members of the Committee on College and University Governance for their dedicated service and their patience in awaiting news of reappointment. I also thank the members of the national staff—and especially Mark Criley, who staffs the committee, and the other members of the Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance—for their expert and tireless support. ■

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Connecticut College, *chair*