



Collective Bargaining Chapter Litigation Fund Guidelines

This policy was adopted by Council in August 2020.

The AAUP has established the Collective Bargaining Chapter Litigation Fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide grants to AAUP collective bargaining (“CB”) chapters to support important legal cases. Applications to the fund will be reviewed by the CB Chapter Litigation Fund Committee, which shall consist of the General Counsel of the AAUP, the director of the Legal Department, and one AAUP staff member. Grant recommendations will be forwarded to the Council for review and approval.

The Litigation Fund shall be a budget line established on an annual basis by the Council. Council reserves the right to determine the amount granted from the Litigation Fund in a given year. Chapters shall be eligible for grants in the form of matching funds to support legal cases of importance to the broader higher education community or that may have significant precedential value for other AAUP chapters. Examples of such cases include violations of academic freedom, enforcement of civil or First Amendment rights, cases that challenge or reinforce the collective bargaining rights of chapters and faculty, and cases that may set a precedent for, or impact, higher education. Legal cases that can be funded include federal or state court litigation, arbitrations, unfair labor practice proceedings, and other formal administrative proceedings. Funds cannot be used to cover internal appeals or proceedings. The funds can be used to reimburse attorneys fees and other costs associated with the legal proceedings, such as filing fees and discovery costs.

Grants made to a chapter shall not exceed \$20,000/year in total. In order to be eligible to receive a grant, a chapter must be in good standing with the AAUP, and must agree to comply with the terms of the grant. The Litigation Fund Committee reserves the right to review an application on the merits at all levels of the judicial process. In the event that attorneys’ fees are recovered, in whole or part, at any stage in this proceeding, the chapter agrees to reimburse the Litigation Fund in the same proportion as the Litigation Fund contributed to the funding of the proceeding.

The chapter, not the member, must file the Litigation Fund application. In order to apply, chapters must submit an application, a copy of the chapter’s most recent audited financial statements, and any other required documents to the director of the Legal Department. Applications will be reviewed by the CB Chapter Litigation Fund Committee on a quarterly basis.