



Approved by Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure June 3, 2016

GROVE CITY COLLEGE (PENNSYLVANIA)

Having been placed on the Association's list of censured administrations in 1963 by the Forty-ninth Annual Meeting, Grove City College has been on the list longer than any other institution. The report of the investigating committee found that a professor with almost five years of service at the college and with five years of prior service elsewhere had been dismissed for stated cause without "any recognizable form of due process, academic or general," thus raising "grave doubts regarding the academic security of any persons who may hold appointment at Grove City College under existing administrative practice."

For nearly fifty years, successive Grove City College administrations had declined to respond to semiannual letters from the Association's staff inviting discussion of the censure and its potential removal. Then, in 2013 a newly appointed provost did respond, initiating a phone call with the AAUP's staff to discuss removal of censure. In 2014, with the accession of a new president, dialog intensified. The staff urged, as a first step, that the administration extend a gesture of redress to the affected professor, who was now in his nineties.

In October 2015 the college's president emeritus drove to the professor's home in Ohio to offer the administration's apology, thus addressing one obstacle to removing censure. In March 2016 the administration agreed to adopt official policy based on Association standards that would prevent a case such as the one that had occasioned the censure from occurring again. The agreed-upon policy states as follows: "If the Grove City College administration believes that cause exists for suspending a professor or for terminating his or her employment while that professor is under contract with the College, it will provide the professor with a written statement of the cause and opportunity for defense in a hearing before a representative faculty body. In the case of a suspension due to exigent circumstances, such statement and opportunity for a hearing will be provided as soon as practicable after the initiation of the suspension." In April the incoming president of the Pennsylvania Division of the AAUP visited the campus to assess general conditions for academic freedom and submitted a report supporting removal.

Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure recommends to the 102nd Annual Meeting that Grove City College be removed from the Association's list of censured administrations.