



Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas

The AAUP's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure presented the following statement to the AAUP Annual Meeting on June 17, 2017.

Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas has been on the Association's list of censured administrations since 1978. The case that led to the censure involved the summary dismissal of a faculty member with ten years of full-time service at the institution, which did not grant appointments with indefinite tenure. Although the faculty member's case was resolved over three decades ago, staff negotiations with the administration regarding revisions to institutional regulations that would address the policy deficiencies that led to the censure ended unsuccessfully, even after the institution was absorbed by the University of Arkansas system in the mid-1990s.

In September 2015, a member of the system administration began working with the AAUP staff to amend the relevant institutional regulations to comport with AAUP-recommended standards. These efforts led to the college's adoption of a policy assuring that indefinite retention, after six years of full-time faculty service, is presumed unless the administration demonstrates cause for termination in an appropriate hearing. The approved changes also provide for improvements to the institution's hearing procedures. In March, a representative of the Association visited the college and submitted a report to Committee A that described the climate for academic freedom as "healthy."

Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure recommends to the 103rd Annual Meeting that Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas be removed from the Association's list of censured administrations.