



May 4, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Miles K. Davis
President
Linfield University
900 Southeast Baker Street
McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Dear President Davis:

Thank you for your letter of May 3 responding to ours of April 30 regarding the summary dismissal of Professor Daniel J. Pollack-Pelzner.

You say that “Linfield respects the work and advocacy of the AAUP and is unwavering in its support of academic freedom.”

You also state that last week’s “firing” of Professor Pollack-Pelzner was “for cause unrelated to academic performance or professional competence.”

Under Regulation 5a of the AAUP’s *Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure* (which you will find in your faculty handbook), “Adequate cause for dismissal will be related, directly and substantially, to the fitness of faculty members in their professional capacity as teachers or researchers.”

Your second statement thus indicates that the action against Professor Pollack-Pelzner not only was effected without affordance of academic due process but also was based on reasons that had nothing to do with his professional fitness—in contravention of a crucial AAUP-recommended dismissal standard.

If your administration were truly unwavering in its support of academic freedom, it would do as we had urged in our previous letter and immediately rescind the notice of dismissal issued to Professor Pollack-Pelzner, with any further action taken in accordance with the academic due-process standards of Regulation 5.

As our letter noted, a summary dismissal, especially in a case that appears to implicate principles of academic freedom, is a matter of grave concern to the AAUP. If we do not receive news by next week of the rescission of Professor Pollack-Pelzner’s dismissal (or of some other resolution acceptable to Professor Pollack-Pelzner), the staff in this department will be

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compelled to ask the Association's executive director to appoint an ad hoc investigating committee to inquire into the matter and issue a report of its findings (see the enclosed *Association Procedures in Academic Freedom and Tenure Cases*).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory F. Scholtz". The signature is written in a cursive style and extends to the right with a long horizontal line.

Gregory F. Scholtz, Director

Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance

Enclosure by email attachment

Cc: Dr. Susan Agre-Kippenhan, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor Ingrid Flanders, Chair, Faculty Senate
Professor Sharon Bailey Glasco, President, Linfield AAUP Chapter
Professor Michael Dreiling, President, Oregon AAUP Conference
Professor Ramin Farahmandpur, President-Elect, Oregon AAUP Conference
Professor David Luebke, Vice President for Academic Freedom and Governance, Oregon
AAUP Conference
Professor Daniel Pollack-Pelzner