

Excerpt – Cooperation Between the National Staff of Committee A & the Assembly of State Conferences (11/6/89)

The Assembly of State Conferences and Committee A intend to work jointly to strengthen conference Committee A programs that reflect the Association's strong tradition of support for academic freedom and tenure. The Chairs of the Assembly and Committee A will continue to monitor the progress of the conferences.

We encourage the conferences to undertake the following responsibilities:

1. Each conference should have an active Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure. Its primary responsibility should be educational. It should inform the professoriate, institutional administrators, public officials, and the general public of the significant roles that academic freedom and tenure play in institutions of higher education. Specifically, it should provide guidance to the academic community of the procedures recommended to implement the 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure* and other related policy statements. Through workshops and public forums the conference's Committee A should seek to build a better understanding of both principles and procedures.
2. A primary goal of the conference's Committee should be to encourage the integration of Association standards and procedures of academic freedom and tenure into institutional policies and regulations. Working with the national staff and chapters, the conference should assist institutions and governing and coordinating boards in developing both policy statements and detailed regulations.
3. The conference's Committee A program should identify faculty members who are willing and able to undertake Committee A work on behalf of the conference and in cooperation with the national staff. These faculty members provide expertise on policies and procedures and, working closely with the national staff, frequently facilitate the resolution of disputes.
4. Primary responsibility for the implementation of Committee A policies and procedures rests with the Association's national staff under the General Secretary. In many instances the first point of inquiry concerning policies or procedures may be the conference's officers, staff, or Committee A. Both conference representatives and national staff assume responsibility for joint consultation at various stages of the procedures. The purpose of such consultation is "full development of relevant issues and facts and to insure uniform interpretation of the Association's principles and policies." The ultimate goal is a program that will permit maximum assistance to those who request assistance from the Association.