

AAUP

American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

April 21, 2006

Dr. Scott S. Cowen
President
Tulane University
6823 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118-5698


Dear President Cowen:

Your letter of April 17, addressed to my colleague Robert Kreiser who has been corresponding with you, has just reached us. Dr. Kreiser is away until next week, and this letter is not in direct response to yours. Rather, I am writing at this time, and writing similarly to the chief administrative officers of the other New Orleans universities, to inform you of a broader undertaking by our Association.

Reacting to an array of AAUP concerns that have presented themselves at the several universities in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a special committee of the Association to inquire into and report on these concerns is being formulated. The special committee has been authorized by the chair of AAUP's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, Professor of American History David A. Hollinger at the University of California, Berkeley, with the concurrence of General Secretary Roger W. Bowen. Chairing the special committee will be Professor of Law Robert M. O'Neil of the University of Virginia. The committee will be meeting next month to discuss its mission and determine how it will go about its task. Meetings and interviews in New Orleans are anticipated, beginning late in the summer. We expect to be writing again shortly to inform you of the full membership of the special committee and say more about its operation.

Your cooperation will certainly be welcomed.

Sincerely,


Jordan E. Kurland
Associate General Secretary

cc: Ms. Catherine D. Pierson, Chair, Board of Administrators
Professor Parviz Rastgoufard, President, AAUP Chapter
Professor Linda L. Carroll, AAUP Council, District V
Professor Alvin Burstein, President, Louisiana Conference AAUP

