

VIA FACSIMILE (504-865-5202)

June 27, 2006

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

Ms. Catherine D. Pierson  
Chair, Board of Administrators  
Tulane University  
6823 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Dear President Cowen and Chair Pierson:

Thank you for your letter of June 22, responding to mine of June 14, concerning the report issued by the FTFR sustaining the appeal submitted by the Department of Mechanical Engineering against the Tulane administration's decision to discontinue the department and terminate the appointments of its faculty.

You state that the "FTFR proceedings are confidential unless all parties involved in a hearing agree otherwise." There appears to be no provision in the Tulane Faculty Handbook stipulating that a hearing conducted under Article V, Section 2 is "confidential." Likewise, the document is silent as to whether a resulting report has to be "vetted by all parties involved in the hearing" before it may be shared with third parties, in this case the AAUP.

You go on to state that "the administration will review and respond to the report in due course consistent with the procedures set forth in the . . . Handbook," and that the governing board will ultimately be called upon "to decide any controverted issues." You then question the appropriateness of the AAUP, as "an outside organization[,] to urge the administration to take actions that would short-circuit the procedures in the Faculty Handbook." By urging you to consider accepting the hearing committee's report, we do not see us as short-circuiting any procedure. Our Association is committed to sound policies and sound practice, and it would be contrary to our longstanding practice for us to await the final results of a process before offering our comments as a kind of post-mortem. We believe it is incumbent upon us to offer our advice and recommendations in situations like this where time is of the essence, and where we believe they might be useful for the well being

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of the institution and the parties concerned. And given the strong and unequivocal findings and recommendations contained in the FTFR report, we do not believe we would be carrying out our responsibilities were we not to speak out promptly.

It is, of course, the prerogative of the Tulane administration to decide whether or not to follow our recommendations. We continue, however, to urge that you do so.

Sincerely,

B. Robert Kreiser  
Associate Secretary

BRK:id

cc: Dr. Lester A. Lefton, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
Dr. Nicholas J. Altiero, Dean, School of Engineering  
Professor Edward C. Strong, Chair, Senate Committee on Faculty Tenure, Freedom  
and Responsibility  
Professor Robert M. Hill, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Faculty Tenure, Freedom  
and Responsibility  
Professor Graeme Forbes, Secretary, Faculty Senate  
Members of the Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Professor Parviz Rastgoufard, President, AAUP Chapter  
Professor Linda L. Carroll  
Professor Alvin Burstein, President, Louisiana Conference AAUP  
Members of the AAUP's Special Committee