

# AAUP

American Association of University Professors

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*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

September 1, 2006

VIA PRIORITY MAIL

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

Dear President Cowen:

A week ago my colleague Robert Kreiser wrote to convey our regret that you had chosen not to meet with our Special Committee during its impending visit to New Orleans. He noted that the heads of the public universities in the city were arranging to meet with us without the prior agreement on the meeting's purpose and agenda that you proposed as a prerequisite.

Though the good offices of Commissioner of Higher Education Savoie, our Special Committee during its August 28-30 visit was able to meet and discuss AAUP's concerns with the chief officers of the three public New Orleans universities, Chancellors Hollier, Ryan, and Ukpolo, as well as with the Commissioner himself and with various system-level and additional campus-level administrative officers. There were no pre-set agendas and no resulting public statements. General agreement was expressed that the discussions were constructive and useful, and we anticipate informal follow-up communications as the Special Committee proceeds with the formulation of its report.

Again, I ask on behalf of the Special Committee that you agree to a meeting so that we can have an enhanced understanding of your position on our key concerns before we arrive at a draft text that has been approved for circulation among the principal parties with an invitation for their corrections and comments.

Do let us work out a suitable date.

President Scott S. Cowen  
September 1, 2006  
Page Two

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan E. Kurland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jordan E. Kurland  
Associate General Secretary

cc: Mr. Philip Greer, Chair, Board of Administrators  
Professor Linda L. Carroll, President, AAUP Chapter  
Special Committee