

Loyola University Chapter

Report to LA-AAUP State Conference

April 16, 2011

- Attachments:
1. Letter from Jordan Kurland (dated 12/15/2010)
 2. Wildes' response (dated 2/28/2011)
 3. Chapter response (dated 3/14/2011)
 4. Summary of chapter meeting (dated 3/24/2011)

The last of the lawsuits filed against Loyola as a result of Pathways was settled in October 2010. However, it is my understanding that one of those suits may be reopened. The university has attempted to demand revisions on another faculty member's agreement after the fact. That faculty member and that faculty member's lawyer do not believe this revision to be in their best interest. They have attempted many compromise revisions that have failed and may end up back in court. Jordan Kurland has been fully apprised of this by the faculty member.

The Loyola chapter has had monthly meetings this semester to discuss the removal of censure from the university administration. In addition, a subcommittee, consisting of Connie Rodriguez, Lynn Koplitz, Maria Calzada and Ralph Tucci, has been meeting monthly with the provost to discuss issues and concerns that we feel need to be addressed before we can recommend lifting the censure. While our meetings with the provost have been productive, we are troubled by the fact that we have yet to have any interaction, discussion or meeting of any kind with the president who, as his letter demonstrates, has delegated the task of working with the AAUP chapter to the provost (see attachment 2).

Regarding the president's response to Jordan Kurland (see attachment 2), we are troubled by paragraph 2, where Wildes asserts that he followed the *Handbook* after Katrina and recognizes "that we can come to different conclusions about processes followed and decisions taken in the aftermath of Katrina." Clearly, according to his interpretation he believes he followed appropriate processes. We don't see this as a matter of interpretation. The plain language of the *Handbook* was not followed, and this is not a minor disagreement. This is the essence of the censure. In his final paragraph, he writes "To the fullest extent possible, we will do anything we can to avoid terminating tenured faculty." Again, he shows that he still does not understand that the egregious mistakes in Pathways were procedural. We are also troubled by the fact that he has shifted the task of working on removal of censure to the provost. We feel that we have absolutely no assurance or confidence that the president would act any differently should Loyola find itself in a similar crisis situation.

As mentioned, our AAUP sub-committee has had monthly meetings with the provost. The results of the first two meetings have been summarized in the chapter's letter to Jordan Kurland (see attachment 3). The provost has met once with the entire chapter (and will do so again on April 27) to hear concerns and answer questions. At the sub-committee's meeting with the provost on March 23, we presented him with issues that the chapter felt needed addressing (see attachment 4). These concerns have been the subject of our monthly meetings with him, and as you can see, most of them are in process and/or agreed to. The sub-committee is sensing frustration from the provost, not because of anything we have said or done, but rather because of what we think may be resistance from the president.

For the present, we do not think that we are ready to recommend or petition for the removal of censure before the AAUP National Convention in June. We shall continue to work with the provost on removal and hope that the president will engage in the discussion and process.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Rodriguez
President
Loyola University Chapter, AAUP