



March 31, 2008

Dear President Wildes:

Thank you for your reply to the Loyola University AAUP chapter letter dated March 3, 2008. The March 3 letter and the present letter have been written collaboratively by members of the Loyola AAUP Chapter and represent the views of the Loyola University AAUP members. The recommendations contained herein support the resolution passed by the University Senate on October 11, 2007 (attached).

We note that in your reply dated March 11, 2008, you write: "I have not received a protocol from the AAUP on steps to be taken to have the University removed from the censured list." We are puzzled by this statement in view of the letter written to you by Jordan E. Kurland, Associate General Secretary of the AAUP, dated October 9, 2007, which spells out what needs to be done in order to lift the censure of Loyola University's administration. In summary, the steps spelled out by Kurland amount to the following:

- 1) Issues of redress for improperly injured faculty members need to be resolved;
- 2) The administration and board of trustees must be committed to adherence to official policies comporting with AAUP-supported standards on academic freedom and tenure;
- 3) There must be a climate at the university supportive of academic freedom and tenure.

As you can see, the AAUP needs assurance that the administration and the board of trustees understand the mistakes made during the development and implementation of the Pathways Plan; that they have resolved the cases caused by these mistakes; and that they are committed to preventing such mistakes in the future. Specifically, resolving law suits to the plaintiffs' satisfaction is essential to getting the censure lifted. Also, openly endorsing the contractual status of Chapters 4-16 inclusive in the Faculty Handbook and faithfully following its procedures would demonstrate a commitment to AAUP-supported standards of academic freedom and tenure. Only then will the AAUP be persuaded that a climate favorable to academic freedom exists at Loyola.

During the past academic year, progress toward removing censure has been made by the other New Orleans universities. Details will be published in the May-June 2008 issue of *Academe*. The report will note that no progress at all has been made at Loyola New Orleans.

We additionally call your attention to the January-February 2007 issue of *Academe*, which contains six reports from top administrators at formerly censured universities in an article entitled, "How We Got Off the Censure List." This article, located at <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/academe/2007/JF/Feat/HowWe.htm>, clearly indicates what was done to remove censure in these instances.

We regret that you now decline to meet with the members of the Loyola AAUP chapter. We note in your letter of March 11 that you state that you have a strong commitment to shared governance and that you encourage members of the AAUP to “make good use” of the committees of the University Senate. You write: “There is no doubt that I and other members of the administration work with SCAP, the Senate, URTC, and other committees of the Faculty Handbook to preserve that sense of shared governance.”

We welcome this expression of your commitment to shared governance. However, in our view such a commitment entails a much greater regard for the careful deliberations and decisions of SCAP, the Senate, and URTC on vital matters than you have exhibited in the past. In addition, we contend that it implies that you attend University Senate meetings, as has not thus far been the case during this academic year.

The Members of the AAUP Chapter of Loyola University New Orleans

cc: Fr. Robert Gerlich, Chairman, University Senate  
Executive Committee of the University Senate  
Dr. Walter Harris, Jr., Provost  
All Academic Deans  
Board of Trustees, all members  
Members of the Jesuit Community, New Orleans Province  
Jordan Kurland, Associate General Secretary of the AAUP

## **Attachment**

Resolution passed October 11, 2007 by the University Senate.

Whereas, we recognize that the recent AAUP censure has created problems for Loyola with faculty morale and recruitment, with the university’s reputation, and could affect future student enrollments,

Therefore the University Senate urges the President, the University Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the AAUP Chapter at Loyola to work to remove that censure with all deliberate haste.