

14 March 2011

Jordan E. Kurland
Associate General Secretary
American Association of University Professors
1133 19th St. NW
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Kurland,

In response to your letter of December 2010 regarding Loyola and the lifting of censure, I am pleased to report the following on behalf of the Loyola chapter of the AAUP.

Immediately after receiving your letter, I formed a committee with three members of our AAUP chapter to meet with the provost at the beginning of this semester to begin discussion. We had our first meeting with the provost on January 26 to talk about the Calls for Action and Conversation and the votes of no confidence that came from the faculty in the aftermath of Katrina. Part of the discussion also involved the work of the Handbook Committee regarding ambiguous language in the *Handbook* that became evident during the course of litigation, and a new assessment of the Pathways plan (still in progress) that was jointly initiated this academic year by the University Senate and the Standing Council on Academic Planning (SCAP). A report of this assessment is planned for April or May.

At this meeting, the provost and subcommittee agreed to continue meeting on a monthly basis to analyze and discuss issues related to the documents above as we work together toward censure removal. The schedule for those meetings has been set and is proceeding. The provost agreed to meet with the chapter and interested faculty to answer questions about the direction of the university since Katrina. That meeting occurred on February 14, and there may be more meetings with him in the future as necessary.

One issue stressed at both meetings with the provost was that the president of the university would need to engage in the process by meeting with the faculty at large to address concerns related to Pathways, the mistakes made and how to avoid similar situations in the future. The provost stated that the president planned to attend the next meeting of the University Senate in March. We replied this was a

good beginning but was not sufficient. We also encouraged similar encounters between the Board of Trustees and the faculty to bridge the chasm, exacerbated by Pathways, that separates these two groups.

We had a second meeting with the provost on February 23. During this meeting the provost told us that he and the president discussed the issues raised by the faculty. Kvet told the president that the greatest concern was trust and how to rebuild it. The greater part of our meeting with the provost revolved around tenure, what it means and how it is important for the administration to affirm its commitment to preserving and acknowledging it. The provost offered to come to any subsequent meetings the AAUP chapter scheduled to answer questions and continue the dialogue.

The chapter will continue to schedule regular meetings for all faculty to address ongoing concerns regarding the censure. The next meeting has been scheduled for March 21. About half of our current faculty have been hired since Katrina and are unaware of much that has happened. We have a somewhat daunting task on our hands to both educate and elucidate while addressing the assault on academic freedom and shared governance created by Pathways.

I shall be keeping you posted on the progress of our meetings and looking forward to your advice to our chapter as we move ahead over the coming semester.

Yours sincerely,

Connie Rodriguez
President
Loyola University AAUP chapter