

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

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November 8, 1995

Dr. Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor
Washington University
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63130-4899

Dear Chancellor Wrighton:

As you may recall, we sent you a copy of a letter we wrote to Vice Chancellor Macias on September 13, 1995, concerning the case of Professor Jeffrey Kurtzman at Washington University; he replied on October 2. (Another copy is enclosed.) The local chapter of AAUP has since conveyed its concerns to Vice Chancellor Macias, and Professor Kurtzman and the complainants have appealed to the Senate Council for further adjudication of the issues raised in this case.

As we stated in our September 13 letter to Vice Chancellor Macias, the sanctions against Professor Kurtzman are, by any standard, severe. Whether or not Professor Kurtzman is barred from teaching--still a matter of dispute--the sanctions already imposed and as yet to be imposed on him seem to us clearly to call for treatment in the manner set forth in Regulation 7(a) (Procedures for the Imposition of Sanctions Other Than Dismissal) of our Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure (enclosed). According to the AAUP-supported standard, a severe sanction may be imposed only after the administration demonstrates cause through a hearing of record before an appropriate body of the faculty and with other requisite safeguards of academic due process, as set forth in Regulation 5 of the RIR. At Washington University, the appropriate procedures are found in section IX of the "Policy on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Tenure." The dismissal procedures in section IX provide the safeguards of academic due process that are responsive to the concerns of all the parties to the dispute and that, according to the policy, may result in a sanction other than dismissal.

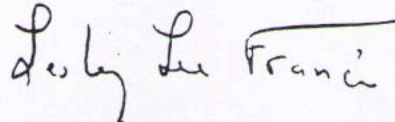
Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton

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We therefore urge, as in the best interest of all concerned, that the Washington University administration promptly submit the charges against Professor Kurtzman to a hearing of record, as called for in section IX of the institutional regulations and Regulation 7(a) of the RIR.

Sincerely,



Lesley Lee Francis
Associate Secretary

LLF:mcd
Enclosures

cc: Vice Chancellor Macias
Professor Jeffrey Kurtzman
Professor Ed Greenberg, AAUP chapter