

THE TIGER COLUMNS

A Quarterly Publication of the University of Missouri Chapter of the AAUP

Monthly Meetings:

Meetings open (membership not required), 11:30 AM
2nd Tuesday each month, Quinton's on 9th Street.

Gifts/Donations: (payable to MU AAUP Chapter)
Send to: MU AAUP Chapter, c/o Chapter President,
W2033 Lafferre Hall, Columbia, MO 65211

AAUP Mission - The mission of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is to advance academic freedom and shared governance; to define fundamental professional values and standards for higher education; to promote the economic security of faculty, academic professionals, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and all those engaged in teaching and research in higher education; to help the higher education community ... (see <http://www.aaup.org/about/mission-1>).

Mission of MU Chapter of the AAUP - The University of Missouri (MU) AAUP Chapter mission is to engage in activities that advance the national AAUP mission by providing a) meeting formats for discussion ... providing formats for faculty members ... inform and engage MU administration and the local communities on ..., and d) pursuit of remedy of chronic deviations through available local and national venues.

Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Tiger Columns. Like the columns' icon of our university, the columns of this quarterly publication are dedicated to the four values of Respect, Responsibility, Excellence, and Discovery. To these we add Freedom and Integrity. Four of these values will form the basis of articles published each quarter. We

look forward to the day when all six will be reported on a regular basis.

Two of the four publications will be single page editions that will be released for the Fall and Spring general faculty meetings. These will set the stage for discussions and greater coverage of the four topics in a subsequent edition to welcome back the faculty, students, and parents at the start of the Spring or Fall semester. The two publications that start off

the Fall and Spring semesters will be on a 2-page handout with completion of articles on the AAUP web page.

This is not a newspaper, it is a publication designed to pursue the mission of AAUP and its University of Missouri Chapter. The mission includes the use of this publication and its critical discussions on topics that are not adequately addressed in other venues at the University.

The discussions are not critical of the University—we love Mizzou and recognize that the core of the University is the Students and Faculty. The staff is often conveyed as the third, important leg. The discussions may be critical about aspects of our structure that detract from the Students, Faculty, or Staff; but only with the intent of affecting change for the better.

RESPECT

Governance of the university is referred to as Shared Governance. History has shown that achieving and maintaining excellence in each discipline is only sustainable when critical decisions are made only by those who are actively participating in the teaching and research within that discipline. It thus follows that Faculty have direct authority on curriculum.

The collected rules dictate that Faculty are part of all governance with either direct authority, shared authority, or advisory authority. Unfortunately many decisions are handed down from administration without the faculty having the opportunity to provide advisory authority. This quarter's topic is **"WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE FACULTY COMPONENT OF SHARED GOVERNANCE"**.

The quarterly column articles on each value will start with publishing of the topics in the Fall or Spring edition. During the next two months, at least one interview (written questions) will be performed with key contacts on each topic. This will be followed by AAUP email discussions. Finally the complete write-up will appear in the Winter or Summer edition.

This Quarter's Recommended Reading:

The Westhues report is an expert testimony on Faculty mob behavior here on our MU campus. It is available at: http://aaup.missouri.edu/Westhues_Report_Academic_Mobbing.pdf

RESPONSIBILITY

The rules of our country, as well as our university, are only as good as they are applied to each of us as individuals. But when a faculty member becomes a victim of arbitrary implementation of sanction, it is often the result of actions of the administration or mobs of faculty. As such, these individuals are rarely able to find resolution through standard Faculty Governance or administrative venues. AAUP is here for those individuals.

This quarter's topic is **"TENURE DENIAL MAKES NATIONAL HEADLINES"**. This article is on the plight of Dylan Kesler who appears to have an exceptional record on teaching and research, but may have rubbed a few administrators the wrong way. His tenure was denied.

Only after an embarrassing *Inside Higher Ed* article questioned the lack of an explanation being provided to Dylan did Chancellor Loftin release a statement. One reason (apparently) for denial was that *he was accused of misconduct*—this is problematic because he was found not guilty. Another listed reason was one or more of your colleagues called into question your veracity (in response to false accusations). Perhaps a little veracity is needed in *The Tiger Columns* in response to these criteria.

Dylan as requested access to his dossier. He still has not been provided access.

"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are." — Benjamin Franklin

EXCELLENCE - There is no Excellence in the absence of Respect, Responsibility, Freedom and Integrity.

DISCOVERY - Many believe that progress on this value is stunted due to problems related to four of the other values.

FREEDOM

Academic freedom is key to attaining excellence and discovery. We are fortunate that academic freedom is a stated principle upon which MU operates; Galileo was not so fortunate when the Catholic Church persecuted him for abandoning the geocentric believe that Earth was the center of the universe.

The right for an inventor to receive credit for inventions is a critical aspect of freedom. US Patent law is founded in Article One, section 8 of the US Constitution the where congress has the power to enact law to protect writings and discoveries *To promote the progress of science*. This value is most similar to those upon which MU was founded.

AND SO, why do a few MU system administrators, attorneys, and respective campus staff exercise the self-proclaimed right to prevent professors and other researchers from filing patent. Specifically, when this self-proclaimed group decides not to use their budget to pursue patent, they attempt to prevent inventors from pursuing patent. This practice goes against the very foundation of both MU and the USA. This quarter's topic is **"A CHALLENGE TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S SELF-PROCLAIMED RIGHT TO STOP INVENTORS FROM PUBLISHING"**.

Question of the Quarter:

Which is more important, for MU to maintain its AAU rating or for MU to live by these values?
A real (not rhetorical) question!

INTEGRITY

For institutions, maintenance of integrity is a process—integrity diminishes in the absence of critical safeguards like:

- Transparency
- Division of Governance
- A Viable Justice System

Transparency is supposed to be enforced at MU by the sunshine law and Shared Governance. Essentially by definition, administration must be transparent on all but the most critical items for Faculty Advisory Input/Authority to be practiced (faculty need to be given the facts to provide input). Faculty Governance is being reported in the RESPECT column.

Division of Governance protects integrity by limiting the power of any group. The US has the executive, legislative, and justice branches that (loosely) practice enforcement of law, creation of law, and interpretation of law. At MU the administration has assumed both the interpretation of law and the enforcement, and yes, that causes many problems and injustices—this is a future topic.

MU's internal justice system consists of both a Grievance process and Faculty Irresponsibility process. There is not a process for Administrative Irresponsibility. This quarter's topic is **"THE PLAGUE OF LAWSUITS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED – UNIVERSITY WITH A BROKEN GRIEVANCE PROCESS"**.

You will be amazed at the modes of operation of the MU grievance process!