

AAUP

American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

November 6, 2008

Dr. Tullisse A. Murdock
Chancellor
Antioch University
150 E. South College Street
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

Mr. Arthur J. Zucker
Chair, Board of Trustees
Antioch University
2012 Prescott Place
Raleigh, North Carolina 27615

Dear Chancellor Murdock and Chair Zucker:

In response to our letter of October 1 concerning our forthcoming governance investigation of Antioch University and the closing of Antioch College, Chancellor Murdock's October 31 letter states that, owing to pending litigation, the "proposed investigation by AAUP would concern the same issues which are now being adjudicated. For that reason, and upon the advice of our legal counsel, we are not able to participate in any 'investigation' by AAUP."

With respect to our decision to authorize an *ad hoc* committee's investigation of the college's closing and related matters, we think it important that you understand our basic aims. The Association has, since its founding in 1915, sought to secure an understanding of sound academic standards in accredited American institutions of higher learning. It has issued statements of policy embodying these standards, frequently in cooperation with other leading organizations in the academic community. The 1966 *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities* forms the basis of our interest in the issues regarding the faculty role in institutional governance posed by the Antioch case.

The AAUP decides whether to proceed with an investigation on a case by case basis; when it is necessary to investigate and report on institutional actions, the AAUP appoints an *ad hoc* committee that has not prejudged the matter. The committee issues findings on whether the institution's actions appear to constitute significant departures from the AAUP's recommended standards. In the Antioch case, we expect that information already available to the committee will be supplemented by the investigating committee's written and oral communications with numerous individuals in Ohio and elsewhere. To the extent you believe the investigating committee has received an inaccurate representation of the developments at Antioch College or Antioch University, we invite you to supply any additional information.



Chancellor Tullisse A. Murdock
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Page Two

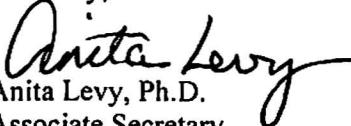
Our Association has never maintained that the administration of a college or university is under any official obligation to participate in an investigation; indeed, on a number of occasions we have completed an investigation without an administration's participation. It has been our experience, however, that administrations are in most instances cooperative. In addition, we have investigated many cases that have simultaneously been in litigation, and we have generally been successful in avoiding the detrimental intrusion of one upon the other. We do not believe we would be meeting our responsibility to defend academic principles and procedures if we were to delay our investigation until litigation has concluded. Thus we believe that we are acting soundly in pursuing our own interest in the issues relating to academic principles and procedures instead of waiting until other approaches have run their course.

We have recently worked out dates for the committee's visit to the Yellow Springs area: Monday, December 15 and Tuesday, December 16. We have in mind additional Antioch visits elsewhere.

We hope that you will reconsider your administration's decision on cooperating and will provide the investigating committee with your perspective on the issues of concern to us. Whether or not you meet with the committee, a report of the investigation and an invitation to respond will be sent to you and other concerned parties upon approval by the Association's standing Committee on College and University Governance. Your corrections and comments will be taken into account in our preparation of the final text for publication.

In the days and weeks ahead, we shall, of course, be sensitive to any new developments that could affect how we proceed.

Sincerely,


Anita Levy, Ph.D.
Associate Secretary

cc: Dr. David Caruso, President, Antioch University New England
Dr. Neal King, President, Antioch University Los Angeles
Dr. Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet, President, Antioch University Seattle
Dr. Michael Mulnix, President, Antioch University Santa Barbara
Dr. Zaki J. Sharif, Interim President, Antioch University McGregor
Dr. Laurien Alexandre, Director, PhD in Leadership & Change Program
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