

CORNELL

JOHNSON SCHOOL

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To: William Fry, Dean of the Faculty
Day Hall
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Date: July 16, 2010

Re: Annual Report of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status
of the Faculty (AFPS)

The AFPS was involved in several cases and issues over the 2008-09 academic year:

The first case related to a somewhat ambiguous grievance against a department chair and college dean by a faculty member in the handling of a medical issue. After thoroughly reviewing the 14 page petition and public information from a related petition to another entity, the Committee chose not to entertain the petition.

The second case involves a charge against a Dean and Associate Dean by a faculty member regarding teaching load. The AFPS decided to entertain the petition and a fact-finding subcommittee is working on the case over the summer.

In June 2010 a faculty member submitted a petition to the AFPS via a letter to Dean Fry regarding the biology curriculum revision and a course that has been eliminated. The petition and related documents have been distributed to the committee and when the committee meets in September, it will decide if it will entertain that petition.

Following last year's issues related to political activities, after thorough deliberation, the Committee decided there is no need to pursue the drafting of a new University policy regarding caution when faculty or staff express their views and include their University affiliation.

The Committee has four other issues under consideration at this time:

- The first involves the drafting of a University policy statement regarding the use of University-supported e-mail services in sending partisan political interest messages. A discussion draft is circulating at this time.
- The second issue involves revising the wording associated with the "charge" to the AFPS from the Faculty Senate regarding the nature of its recommendations.

- The third issue continues to explore an interest expressed by the Vice President of Human Resources in providing some title designation for emeritus professors who are actively engaged in fulfilling the mission of the University following their retirement. A committee member has done some research and the issue will be discussed at the first meeting of the Committee in the new academic year.
- The outsourcing the teaching of certain courses (such as English as a second language) remains an open question. The Chair has agreed to discuss this issue with Professor Alice Pell and report back to the Committee for further deliberation.

All members of the AFPS Committee were active and participated in fulfilling the Committee's duties. Members are Chekitan Singh Dev, David B. Wilson, Jerome Cherney, Joel D. Baines, Nancy Chau, Nickolas Calderone, Peter Stein, Risa Lieberwitz, Emily Lopes, Thomas McSweeney, and Jerome Hass.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome E. Hass
Chair