

# AAUP

American Association of University Professors

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*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

September 22, 2011

VIA FACSIMILE (985-549-2061)

Dr. John L. Crain  
President  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
548 Western Avenue  
Hammond, Louisiana 70402-0001

Dear President Crain:

We wrote to you last April about AAUP's concerns regarding the discontinuance of the French degree program and the resulting termination of the appointments of the three tenured French professors, in June we sent you and the other UL System presidents a statement from the chair of our Subcommittee on Program Closings on what had happened at Southeastern and what was contemplated at Monroe, and over the ensuing summer months our inquiries regarding developments at the various UL System institutions proceeded apace. An AAUP investigation has been authorized, and a general announcement of its dimensions will be sent out in the next few days. Your September 19 memo on handling AAUP inquiries just crossed my desk, however, and I thought it well to provide you with some details about our investigation without further ado.


We have learned that the majority of the eight institutions that went through the required program reviews did so without having to lay off tenured professors but a few, including Southeastern, were not so successful. We intend to look into examples of avoiding layoffs, but the focus will be on issues of tenure rights, due process, and faculty prerogatives at the institutions where notices of layoffs were deemed necessary.

The *ad hoc* investigating committee consists of Professors *Rebecca J. Williams* (English, University of Central Arkansas), *Chair, Linda L. Carroll* (Italian, Tulane University), and *Tammy Greer* (Psychology, University of Southern Mississippi). The committee in arranging for Louisiana site visits in November. Tentative plans call for its being based in Baton Rouge November 12-15 with a visit to Hammond on November 14-15. They will wish to meet with you, with other administration and faculty members whom we invite you to recommend, with officers of the Faculty Senate and the AAUP chapter, and, of course, with the three French professors and others whom they may recommend.

President John L. Crain  
September 22, 2011  
Page Two

You are certainly welcome, at any time, to send us additional information that may add to our understanding of the issues of concern. We shall be in touch with you about a specific schedule for the site visit as the time approaches.

Sincerely,

  
Jordan E. Kurland  
Associate General Secretary

cc: Provost Tammy M. Bourg  
Director of Public Information Rene Abadie  
Faculty Senate President Joe Burns  
AAUP Chapter President Joe Mirando  
AAUP Louisiana Conference President Alvin G. Burstein  
Professor Katherine Kolb  
Professor Margaret Marshall  
Professor Evelyne Bornier  
*ad hoc* investigating committee