

2012-2013 Academic Freedom Committee Report to the Senate

All of the Committee on Academic Freedom's activities this academic year came before the Senate. We refer the Senate to the minutes of 3 and 10 December 2012 and 28 January 2013, including the reports and resolutions contained therein.

The central concern of the Academic Freedom Committee was the serious attack on academic freedom contained in moves by the Board of Regents, essentially revolving around moves to legitimize intrusive surveillance. The AFC discussed and drafted proposals that were adopted by the Senate. Unfortunately, these recommendations have been rejected by the University administration in open violation of our collective bargaining agreement and established norms of academic freedom.

We were especially concerned that President Miller's rationale for disapproving the motion specifically noted that the policies "could be interpreted as a violation of academic freedom," but that he rejected the Senate's motion because he felt the BOR "had nothing like that in mind with the passage." First, he is no more qualified than the Senate to determine the intention of the BOR's activities. Second, the BOR's intentions are not germane to the Senate's actions. No matter the intent of the policies, the policies as they are written are in fact a violation of academic freedom.

It therefore remains an urgent task of the Senate, the AAUP and the entire campus community to reject these attacks on democratic rights and academic freedom.

Respectfully submitted,

John Tully
Chair
26 April 2013