

American Association of University Professors Update

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*Speaking for myself as an individual
Not speaking on behalf of any group, institution, or organization*

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Academic Freedom

Academic freedom lies at the heart of free, independent, critical inquiry that is fundamental to the university's mission.

1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom & Tenure

- Academic freedom for teachers in teaching, research and expression
- Jointly issued by American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and what is now American Association of Colleges & University (AAC&U)
- UT San Antonio and 900+ others are AAC&U members
- Adopted in UT System policies

Academic freedom **safeguards** include **tenure**, due process, **shared governance**

1940 AAUP/AAC&U Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom & Tenure

Academic Freedom of Faculty Members consists of four interrelated elements:

- freedom to discuss all relevant matters in the classroom **
- freedom to explore all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression and to publish the results of such work
- freedom from institutional censorship or discipline when speaking or writing as participants in the governance of an educational institution
- freedom from institutional censorship when speaking or writing as citizen

*** Applies to anyone employed in a teaching role in higher education.*

Tenure

1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom & Tenure

Tenure is a means to certain ends; specifically:

(1) freedom of teaching and research and of extramural activities, and

(2) a sufficient degree of economic security to make the profession attractive to all people of ability.

Freedom and economic security, hence, tenure, are indispensable to the success of an institution in fulfilling its obligations to its students and to society.

Shared Governance Principles

1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities

- Jointly formulated by AAUP, ACE and AGB
- UT San Antonio is a member of American Council on Education (ACE)
- UT System is a member of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities & Colleges (AGB)
- Describes roles for Faculty, President, and Governing Board

“This statement is a call to **mutual understanding** regarding the government of colleges and universities.” (emphasis added)

Advocacy for Higher Education

As faculty, your skills, knowledge, and experience would help you be highly effective in advocating for higher ed values (academic freedom, tenure, etc.)

You have freedom to advocate as a private citizen using your First Amendment Rights or member of an advocacy organization

Be clear who you are speaking for

Strength and efficacy in working with others

Orange and Maroon Legislative Day

Former students at UT Austin and Texas A&M as well as faculty and staff at the institutions to advocate at the Texas Legislature

31 teams fanned met with each of the 181 Texas Legislators' offices

Talking points at OMLD on February 15, 2023

- Affordability for students
- Research support
- Semiconductor R&D and manufacturing
- Improve campus mental health resources and staff
- Fully fund Texas Hazlewood Act mandates for Veteran dependents

Texas AAUP Advocacy

[American Association of University Professors](#) (AAUP) has been organizing faculty on campus and statewide for advocacy of higher ed issues

- Academic Freedom
- Tenure
- Shared Governance

Affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers

Texas AAUP Efforts

- [A Pledge to Support Higher Education in Texas](#) – Oct. 8, 2023
- Legislative Visit with TACT – Dec. 2, 2022
- Texas AAUP Conference Legislative Agenda – Jan. 24, 2023
- Legislative Visit with Texas AFT – Jan. 9-10, 2023
- Advocacy opportunities
 - Coordinate activities with other advocacy organizations ([TACT](#), [TCFS](#), [TFA](#))
 - Write/edit op-eds, social media, blogs, etc.
 - Conduct interviews by reporters as an individual or in a group
 - Contact/meet your local Texas Legislators in your district as private citizens
 - [Sign up for Texas Legislative training, updates and visits](#) as private citizens
 - AFT Legislative Update Tonight 6:30-7:30pm. [RSVP](#). Pick Alamo College.

DISCUSSION