

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure
(Final; Information)

AF.14.01 2013-2014 Annual Report

The Senate *Bylaws* provide for a standing Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AFT). The AFT's duties under the *University Statutes* and Senate *Bylaws* include: (1) conducting hearings in dismissal proceedings under Article X, section 1(e) of the *University Statutes*; (2) investigating alleged violations of academic freedom under Article X, section 2 of the *University Statutes*; and (3) investigating alleged violations of the role of faculty in governance as specified in the *University Statutes* and unit bylaws.

Like other standing committees, the AFT is required by the Senate *Bylaws* to submit "a written report of its activities and unfinished business to the Senate at the last regular meeting of the year." What follows is a summary of matters that came before the AFT during this academic year.

1. The university president sought the dismissal of a tenured professor under Article X, Section 1(d) of the *University Statutes*. The charge against the professor was based in part on the professor's failure to comply with a directive that had been issued by the AFT in connection with a previous Article X proceeding. The Board of Trustees heard the charge against the professor on September 23, 2013. A representative of the AFT appeared at the hearing, as permitted under Article X, Section 1(e)(7) of the *University Statutes*.
2. A professor filed a complaint under Article X, Section 2(d) of the *University Statutes*, claiming that the university had violated the professor's academic freedom by denying the professor's request for emeritus status. After an investigation, the AFT reached a decision. On August 26, 2013, the Committee notified both the professor and the administrator named in the complaint of its decision.
3. A professor filed a complaint under Article X, Section 2(d) of the *University Statutes*, alleging that a series of adverse decisions by an administrator had violated the professor's academic freedom. After an investigation, the AFT prepared a draft report on the questions raised by the complaint. On April 7, 2014, the AFT sent the draft report both to the complainant and to the administrator who was named in the complaint. The AFT will issue a final report after both parties have had an opportunity to comment on the draft report.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE
Eric Johnson, Chair
Andrew Alleyne
Melody Allison
Salvatore Cali
Gregory Girolami
Soo-Yeun Lee
Riheng Liu
David O'Brien
Matthew Stewart
Josephine Stoner