



August 30, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND USPS

Dr. Ronald L. Vaughn
President
The University of Tampa
401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Box A
Tampa, Florida 33606-1490

Dear President Vaughn:

This Association has been advised by Dr. Kenneth Storey, a visiting assistant professor of sociology in his first semester of full-time appointment at the University of Tampa, of a letter by Dr. Jack M. Geller, Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Mathematics, and Education, dated August 29, 2017, informing him that “the university has decided not to retain [his] services going forward.” We understand that the apparent reason for the decision to terminate Professor Storey’s appointment are posts that he made on Twitter that have generated controversy. We further understand that he has not been afforded a hearing in the matter.

Assuming that the information we have been provided is accurate, we are writing to advise you that the administration’s action to dismiss Professor Storey without having first demonstrated adequacy of cause in a faculty hearing is fundamentally at odds with basic standards of academic due process as set forth in the enclosed 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure* and the complementary *Statement on Procedural Standards in Faculty Dismissal Proceedings*. We are particularly concerned that the apparent reason for the dismissal raises a basic issue of academic freedom—that of freedom of extramural utterance. We note that the faculty handbook of the University of Tampa explicitly endorses the 1940 *Statement* and contains the AAUP’s *Committee A Statement on Extramural Utterances* (also enclosed). The summary action and the apparent reason for it are matters of key concern to this Association under its longstanding responsibilities.

We urge that you rescind the notice of dismissal issued to Professor Storey immediately and that any subsequent action be consistent with the above-referenced standards.

Dr. Ronald L. Vaughn

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We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hans-Joerg Tiede". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Hans-Joerg Tiede
Associate Secretary

cc: Dr. David Stern, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Jack M. Geller, Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Mathematics, and Education
Professor Kenneth Storey