



## **ACADEMIC FREEDOM FUND GUIDELINES**

### **I. Primary Purpose:**

The AAUP exists to facilitate a more effective cooperation among teachers and research scholars in universities and colleges, and in professional schools of similar grade, for the promotion of the interests of higher education and research, and in general to increase the usefulness and advance the standards, ideals, and welfare of the profession. The AAUP Foundation is organized exclusively for such educational and charitable purposes as shall qualify it for exemption from federal taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, but not limited to, establishing and supporting principles of academic freedom and the quality of higher education in a free and democratic society; and shall be operated exclusively, to promote the charitable and educational functions of the AAUP.

The Academic Freedom Fund is a restricted fund that furthers such education and charitable purposes by establishing and maintaining academic freedom through research, publication, and assistance to faculties and faculty members in institutions of higher education when need arises, and for related activities. (Academic Freedom Fund Statement of Organization and Purposes.)

### **II. Guidelines for Academic Freedom Fund Funding**

#### **A. The purposes for which expenditures may be made from the Fund are:**

1. Financial assistance to the faculty, or to that portion of the faculty which indicates an awareness of the threat and takes steps to meet it, at an institution where a significant threat to academic freedom arises. Such assistance shall be used to fight against threats to academic freedom which implicate AAUP policy;
2. Temporary financial aid to individual faculty members whose means of support are reduced or cut off because of their involvement in academic freedom controversies, or because of dismissals or nonreappointments which implicate AAUP policy. Individual faculty members are eligible for grants during the time in which they are actively contesting significant threats to academic freedom, dismissals and/or nonreappointments. Grants are limited to two per person per year, with the sum total per year not to exceed ten percent of the most recent salary of the faculty member receiving the grant(s);

3. Financial provision for research projects and general investigations relating to academic freedom, and for publication of the results;
4. Financial support of efforts to reach a larger public in reference to the meaning and importance of academic freedom through all available media of communication; and.
5. Others related to those listed above to be determined by the Board of Directors of the AAUP Foundation (the "Board").

B. Academic Freedom Fund assistance is available to any individual regardless of whether the applicant is a member of, or otherwise associated with, AAUP.

C. AFF assistance is available to the AAUP consistent with the purposes defined in Section II. A. 3, 4 and 5 above.

III. Governance of Fund:

A. The Academic Freedom Fund is administered by a Grants Committee of at least three people, including AAUP members and the Chair of AAUP's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure as an *ex officio* voting member of the Grants Committee. The Foundation President appoints the members of the Academic Freedom Fund Grants Committee. Members of the Academic Freedom Fund Grants Committee serve for three-year terms, subject to renewal. The Board determines the policies which shall govern the Fund and provides for the administration of the fund by the Executive Director. The AAUP Foundation Guidelines must be followed.

B. Requests for assistance are submitted to and reviewed by the Executive Director, or his or her designee, and approved by a majority vote of the Grants Committee. The Board, in its sole discretion, may remove grantmaking authority from the Grants Committee; and it may modify any grant decision if, in the Board's discretion, such decision making is inconsistent with and does not support or benefit the supporting organization structure between AAUP and the Foundation.

C. The Board is committed to bringing the Fund to the attention of all who are eligible. To achieve that goal, the Board and staff will actively publicize the Fund.

D. Members of the Grants Committee or the Board will recuse themselves from debate or decision on any case in which the Grants Committee or Board member or member of his or her family has a financial interest in the outcome in accordance with AAUP Foundation Conflicts-of-Interest Policy.

E. If at any time a Grants Committee member or a Board member is unsure as to whether a conflict (as defined in III. E. above and in accordance with AAUP Foundation Conflicts-of-Interest Policy) might exist, that Grants Committee member or Board member shall raise the issue with the rest of the Board and the Board shall determine by majority vote whether the member in question is required to recuse him or herself from debate and decision on the case.

F. The Academic Freedom Fund is a restricted fund, and contributions to the Academic Freedom Fund may not be used for any AAUP Foundation purposes other than providing the assistance specified by the Fund. All contributions are considered as independent of other financial operations of AAUP and AAUP Foundation and are controlled through separate accounting from the AAUP Foundation.

G. It is the intent of the Board to maintain the existence of the Academic Freedom Fund indefinitely. In general, the fund will disburse no more than 5 percent of its total net assets as of January 1 in any given year. In the event of unusual circumstances, however, as determined by the Board, the fund's principal may be spent to a greater extent.