

April 2018

## Report to CAUT Council

The Committee met once via teleconference since our last report to Council in November 2017. This involved the infringement of academic freedom at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. A resulting investigation will be released as, *An Examination of Academic Freedom: Implications in the Case of Andrew Potter at McGill University*. The Ad Hoc Investigatory Committee into the University of Calgary and its Enbridge Centre for Corporate Sustainability, released last fall, has arguably spurred some positive change at the University of Calgary. Previous AHICs have made inquiries and recommendations of matters concerning individuals and groups who have experienced encroachments of their academic freedom, but the reports have always focused on broader issues of institutional dysfunction that undermine the broader values of the civic university. There are new cases arising and these will be the subject of similar investigations.

AF&T, following the lead of the Executive, has engaged in lengthy debates over the relation between free speech and academic freedom. Incidents across the nation have indicated some confusion and/or contested understandings of these broader concepts and AF&T will participate in a manner that both defends academic freedom while fully appreciating the intersection of equity concerns. For the last two meetings, the Committee has benefitted from the insights of Hank Reichman, Chair, Committee A – Academic Freedom & Tenure, American Association of University Professors.

As indicated in recent debates at Council, several universities have approached the point at which Council debated invoking censure only for these administrations to re-evaluate their position and adopt key recommendations suggested by CAUT. Through AF&T, and the other Committees of Council, we are ensuring a positive collective response to the challenges linked to the corporatization of post-secondary education.

### Policy Statements/Model Clauses

#### Five Year Review

- Policy Statement on the Rights of Graduate Students
- Policy Statement on the Rights of Graduate Students as Employees
- Policy Statement of Employment of Graduate Students as Academic Staff

- Policy Statement on Team Teaching
- Policy Statement on Freedom from Harassment

**New Documents**

- Policy Statement on Distance (including Online) Education
- Policy Statement on Performance Metrics
- Policy Statement on Article Processing Fees

**Ongoing Cases**

The Committee reviewed cases undertaken by the Executive Director, and on which, he will report to Council.

**Current Committee Members**

Peter McInnis, Chair (St. Francis Xavier), Alison Hearn (Western), Robert Hackett (Simon Fraser), Susan Srigley (Nipissing), Mark Mac Lean (British Columbia), Lorelea Michaelis (Mount Allison), Carrie Dawson (Dalhousie), Brendan Gillon (McGill), Roberta Lexier (Mount Royal) and Observer, Hank Reichman (AAUP). Ex-officio: CAUT President James Compton (Western); CAUT Vice-President Brenda Austin-Smith (Manitoba), and CAUT Executive Director David Robinson.

Carrie Dawson (Dalhousie) has completed her term, and on behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank her sincerely for contributing to our deliberations. Gillian Dearle (Kwantlen) joined the Committee in August but recently moved to an administrative role at her institution. We thank her for her contributions. The Committee also wishes to thank members of Council and their colleagues at our institutions nationally for the ongoing diligence directed towards defending our collective academic freedom.

**CAUT Staff Support for AF&T**

Paul Jones (Professional Officer), and Margaret McGovern-Potíé (Executive Assistant to the Executive Director) have been most helpful in organizing and tracking our deliberations and the related documentation.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Peter McInnis, Chair**