



April 2019

Report to CAUT Council

Since our last verbal report to Council in November 2018, the Committee discussed the broader implications for academic freedom at Acadia University as part of larger internal discipline matters leading to the termination of Rick Mehta. AF&T also discussed ongoing consequences of the controversy at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, and resulting investigation released as, *An Examination of Academic Freedom: Implications in the Case of Andrew Potter at McGill University*. The disciplinary actions taken against Derek Pyne at Thompson Rivers University were reviewed. An Ad Hoc Investigatory Committee on Thompson Rivers is now underway. Previous AHICs have made inquiries and recommendations on matters concerning individuals and groups who have experienced encroachments of their academic freedom, but the reports have always focused on issues of institutional dysfunction that undermine values of the civic university.

AF&T, following the lead of the Executive, has engaged in debates over the relation between free speech and academic freedom. This has particular importance with the example of the Government of Ontario imposing campus free speech demands, as of January 2019. The precedent of linking free speech legislation to punitive reductions in university funding has troubling implications for all CAUT member associations. The problem of targeted online harassment of academic staff has featured in several Committee meetings with a view to offering the best practical advice for our members. The Committee debated connections between structures for institutional governance and academic freedom as well as the pattern of Canadian arbitration rulings for intra-mural speech.

For the last several meetings, the Committee has benefited from the insights of Hank Reichman, Chair, Committee A – Academic Freedom & Tenure, American Association of University Professors.

Policy Statements/Model Clauses

Five Year Review

- Policy Statement on Professional Rights and Responsibilities

New Documents

- Policy Statement on Internet Harassment
- Policy Statement on Article Processing Fees



Peter McInnis / CHAIR / PRÉSIDENT // St. Francis Xavier

Carrie Dawson // Dalhousie

Alison Hearn // Western Ontario

Loralea Michaelis // Mount Allison

Brendan Gillon // McGill

Roberta Lexier // Mount Royal

Susan Srigley // Nipissing

Robert Hackett // Simon Fraser

Mark Mac Lean // UBC

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), Susan Srigley (Nipissing), Mark Mac Lean (British Columbia), Lorelea Michaelis (Mount Allison), Brendan Gillon (McGill), Roberta Lexier (Mount Royal), Kevin Kane (Alberta), Dennis Fitzpatrick (Regina), 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.

Brendan Gillon (McGill) and Roberta Lexier (Mount Royal) have completed their terms, and on behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank them sincerely for contributing to our deliberations. 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