

**From:** Jenny Lee <ironmite@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wed, 17 Feb 2010 13:47:43 -0500  
**To:** Mike Pratt <mpratt@scherman.org>  
**Cc:** "Thomas F. Schutte" <tschutte@pratt.edu>

**Subject: Status of the AAUP Action by the Academic Senate**

Dear Mike,

On behalf of the Senate, I want to again thank you for facilitating the February 9 meeting.

I want to be sure the context of our meeting is clear.

As I indicated to you on February 9, I have not requested officially an evaluation by the AAUP even though the Senate resolved to request one, originally on December 8th 2009 (a meeting at which you were present), and then, again, on January 26, 2010.

I have the Senate's authorization to go officially to the AAUP. Aside from writing to you and to Tom to invite the board and the administration to join in the request, I have not carried out the substance of the Senate Resolution of December 8, affirmed on January 26, 2010.

Instead we have worked with all parties in an effort to resolve our governance issues internally, while I have also devoted time and energy to researching the AAUP process and timeline, and to understanding what it would mean for Pratt to be, first, evaluated and then, very likely, investigated, by this national Association, with the real possibility that Pratt could be sanctioned for violation of the AAUP's principles of shared governance.

Toward this end, I consulted unofficially with the Associate Director and Secretary of the AAUP Department of Tenure, Academic Freedom and Governance, its advocacy branch. I pointed the AAUP to the material related to Pratt's Governance Review and Report that can be read on Pratt's and the Senate public websites. The latter also publishes Senate Resolutions addressing the administration's circumvention of institute policies and procedures.

In addition, I contacted administrators and faculty of colleges and universities that have been subject to similar AAUP evaluation and, where applicable, subsequent investigation, asking questions to be sure we are as well informed as possible.

I reported my findings to the Senate committee on Academic Programs and Policies at their January 19 meeting, outlining the AAUP's process and actions. I also reached out to Tom - and by extension, you - for the purpose of informing you and soliciting your feedback, so that your concerns may be taken into account by the Senate. At the first Senate meeting of January 26, 2010, I reported to the Senate both my research on the AAUP and my understanding of the concerns expressed by Tom.

At our Feb 9 meeting, I read you the following excerpt of my report to the Senate:  
"President Lee promised continued diligence in keeping the Senate informed and going back to the body for direction. She will continue to keep Chairman Pratt and President Schutte closely apprised of this matter in order to preserve the best overall interests of the Institute."

Again, in a spirit of respect and good faith, I want to make sure this context is clear. Please feel free to re-distribute my email to board members and please contact me if you have questions. I, and the Senate, remain committed to resolving our governance situation, and we hope to do so internally in a mutual effort with Board and President.

Sincerely,

Jenny Lee, Professor of Fine Arts  
Academic Senate, Pratt Institute  
201-873-5853  
<http://www.prattsenate.org/gov>

Minutes of Senate Meeting January 26, 2010  
<http://www.sitemason.com/newspub/iIVh3a?id=68843>