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November 10, 2020

Re: Letter dated October 30, 2020, to National AAUP

Dear Mr. Crisci:

There are many assertions in your letter to the National AAUP with which I disagree. I limit my comments here to the instances where you specifically reference the Akron-AAUP.

Contrary to your assertions on page two, the Akron-AAUP has not engaged in any bad faith tactics. Your client, the University of Akron Administration, has filed charges alleging such against the Chapter; I believe those charges are without merit and will ultimately be decided against the Administration. I anticipate any additional charges against the Chapter, as threatened in your letter, will similarly be found against the Administration.

You claim on page 6 that “the Akron-AAUP’s leadership sabotage[d] the ratification vote.” You imply our leadership engaged in some kind of improper conduct. On the contrary, the Chapter followed its Constitution; the fact that the leadership recommended against ratification and that upset your client is no basis to imply improper conduct by the Chapter’s leadership.

Finally, on page 11, you impute knowledge to the Akron-AAUP which is not true. The Chapter does not know the University made its decisions informed by academic needs. Instead, the Chapter requested from the Administration the criteria used to determine which faculty to lay off. It was only after persistent efforts on our part that the Administration produced such information after-the-fact. We had, and continue to have, concerns about how the Administration selected faculty for layoff, and as you know, we are pursuing these concerns through a class-action grievance. No Chapter representative has engaged in defamatory or slanderous rhetoric as you allege.

I am not sure to whom you have provided a copy of your letter; I ask that you send each of those individuals a copy of my response.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Schulze, Ph.D.
President, Akron-AAUP