

APA Committee for Defense of the Professional Rights of Philosophers

Annual Report for July 2010 – June 2011

Submitted by William O. Stephens, Chair

Inquiries

Between July 2010 and June 2011 the Committee received three inquiries (complaints) that did not lead to formal investigations or cases.

One individual, a job candidate, expressed concern about the kind of questions it was appropriate for prospective employees to ask during a campus interview. The Committee judged that this concern did not constitute a violation of the complainant's professional rights.

One individual complained about course assignments by his/her chair, but soon thereafter withdrew the complaint.

One individual complained about his/her contract not being renewed, but chose not to pursue the complaint.

Cases

The Committee conducted formal investigation into three cases.

One case, still unresolved by the end of June 2011, involves an individual with various complaints against his/her prior employer, including canceling his/her email account.

One case involved denial of tenure. This case continued to be under investigation by the Committee by the end of June 2011.

One case involved an individual not being allowed by his/her university to apply for tenure after four years of service and being dismissed. The university in question did not cooperate with the Committee's investigation, which resulted in the Committee's decision to recommend censure of the university to the APA Board.

Letters

To a university president who was recommending elimination of his entire Philosophy Department and its program as a budget cut the Committee sent a letter of protest. The Committee also sent a letter of support to the Philosophy Department's Chair.

Committee Members

Larry May served as the Associate Chair of the Committee July 2010 to June 2011. He became Chair of the Committee beginning in July 2011. In addition to Stephens and May, members of the 2010–2011 Committee were Andy Wible, Timothy Shiell, Christopher R. Green, Paul Saka, Catherine Elgin (*ex officio*, Eastern Division), Julia Driver (*ex officio*, Central Division), Heather Battaly (*ex officio*, Pacific Division) and Laurie Shrage (APA Ombudsperson for Nondiscrimination).