

Committee on the Defense of the Professional Rights of Philosophers

2013-2014 Membership

Larry May, chair (2014)

Judith Lichtenberg, associate chair (2014)

Amy Kind (2014)

Joan McGregor (2016)

Leemon McHenry (2014)

Timothy Shiell (2016)

Steven Wagner (2015)

Margaret Walker (2015)

Cheshire Calhoun, supernumerary (2014)

Paula Gottlieb, *ex officio* (2015)

Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, *ex officio* (2016)

Manuel Vargas, *ex officio* (2014)

2013-2014 Report of the Committee on the Defense of the Professional Rights of Philosophers

Respectfully submitted by Larry May, Chair (2011-2014)

In 2013-2014 the defense committee was mainly consumed with a case concerning the denial of tenure at DePaul University. Ultimately, the APA Board agreed to issue a strong letter of concern about the way the tenure decision was handled. In addition we began looking into a case concerning a small college in New Jersey that had fired several tenured professors. This is an area of growing concern for our committee, especially since colleges seem to think that simply declaring fiscal exigency means that we will not investigate - which is not true. There were also an unusual number of complaints brought by one member of the APA against another. The APA board decided to follow our advice and not get involved in such cases, or in cases that are already under investigation by a university committee or by a court of law, until a decision is reached by those bodies.