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# 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure

## with 1970 Interpretive Comments

In 1915 the Committee on Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure of the American Association of University Professors formulated a statement of principles on academic freedom and academic tenure known as the 1915 *Declaration*



probationary period should not exceed seven years, including within this period full-time service in all institutions of higher education; but subject to the proviso that when, after a term of probationary service of more than

5. Termination of a continuous appointment because of financial exigency should be demonstrably bona fide.

### Endorsers

Note: Groups that changed names subsequent to endorsing the statement are listed under their current names.

Association of American Colleges and Universities.....	1941
American Association of University Professors.....	1941
American Library Association (adapted for librarians).....	1946
Association of American Law Schools.....	1946
American Political Science Association.....	1947
American Association for Higher Education and Accreditation.....	1950
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.....	1950
Eastern Psychological Association.....	1950
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology.....	1953
American Psychological Association.....	1961
American Historical Association.....	1961
Modern Language Association.....	1962
American Economic Association.....	1962
Agricultural and Applied Economic Association.....	1962
Midwest Sociological Society.....	1963
Organization of American Historians.....	1963
Society for Classical Studies.....	1963
American Council of Learned Societies.....	1963
American Sociological Association.....	1963

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American Association of University Professors and the Association of American Colleges in 1958. This interpretive document deals with the issue of suspension, about which the 1940 “Statement” is silent.

The “Statement on Procedural Standards in Faculty Dismissal Proceedings” provides: “Suspension of the faculty member during the proceedings is justified only if immediate harm to the faculty member or others is threatened by the faculty member’s continuance. Unless legal considerations forbid, any such suspension should be with pay.” A suspension which is not followed by either reinstatement or the opportunity for a hearing is in effect a summary dismissal in violation of academic due process.

The concept of “moral turpitude” identifies the exceptional case in which the professor may be denied a

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.....	1968
Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists .....	1968
College English Association.....	1968
National College Physical Education Association for Men.....	1969
American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association.....	1969
Council for Philosophical Studies .....	1969
History of Education Society.....	1969
American Musicological Society.....	1969
American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.....	1969
Texas Community College Teachers Association.....	1970
College Art Association of America.....	1970
Society of Professors of Education .....	1970
American Anthropological Association.....	1970
Association of Theological Schools .....	1970
Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication.....	1971
Academy of Legal Studies in Business.....	1971
Americans for the Arts .....	1972
New York State Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges.....	1972
College Language Association.....	1973
Pennsylvania Historical Association.....	1973
American Philosophical Association.....	1974
American Classical League .....	1974
American Comparative Literature Association.....	1974
Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association.....	1974
Society of Architectural Historians.....	1975
American Statistical Association.....	1975
American Folklore Society .....	1975
Association for Asian Studies.....	1975
Linguistic Society of America .....	1975
African Studies Association .....	1975
American Institute of Biological Sciences .....	1975
North American Conference on British Studies.....	1975

Council of Teachers of Southeast	
Asian Languages .....	1994
American Association of Teachers of Arabic...	1994
American Association of Teachers of	
Japanese.....	1994

American Physiological Society.....	2006	Chinese Language Teachers Association .....	2014
National Women's Studies Association .....	2006	Coordinating Council for Women	
National Coalition for History .....	2006	in History.....	2014
Society for Military History .....	2006	Ecological Society of America .....	2014
Society for Industrial and Applied		Institute for American Religious and	
Mathematics .....	2006	Philosophical Thought .....	2014
Association for Research on Ethnicity and		Italian American Studies Association.....	2014
Nationalism in the Americas .....	2006	Midwestern Psychological Association.....	2014
Society of Dance History Scholars.....	2006	Modern Greek Studies Association.....	2014
Association of Literary Scholars, Critics,		National Association of Professors	
and Writers.....	2006	of Hebrew.....	2014
National Council on Public History.....	2006	National Council of Less Commonly	
College Forum of the National Council of		Taught Languages .....	2014
Teachers of English.....	2006	Population Association of America.....	2014
Society for Music Theory .....	2006	Society for Italian Historical Studies.....	2014
Society for Historians of American		Society for Psychophysiological Research.....	2014
Foreign Relations.....	2006	Society for Romanian Studies.....	2014
Law and Society Association .....	2006	Society for Textual Scholarship.....	2014
Society for Applied Anthropology.....	2006	Society for the History of Children and	
American Society of Plant Taxonomists.....	2006	Youth.....	2014
Society for the History of Technology .....	2006	Society for the Psychological Study	
German Studies Association.....	2006	of Social Issues.....	2014
Association of College and Research		Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic	
Libraries .....	2007	Literature of the United States.....	2014
Czechoslovak Studies Association.....	2007	Society of Civil War Historians .....	2014
American Educational Studies Association.....	2007	Society of Mathematical Psychology.....	2014
Southeastern Women's Studies Association ..	2009	Sociologists for Women in Society .....	2014
American Academy for Jewish Research.....	2014	Urban History Association .....	2014
American Association for Ukrainian		World History Association .....	2014
Studies.....	2014	American Educational Research	
American Association of Italian Studies .....	2014	Association.....	2014
American Theatre and Drama Society .....	2014	Labor and Working-Class History	
Central European History Society .....	2014	Association.....	2014
Central States Communication Association....	2014	Paleontological Society .....	2014