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Faculty Senate Resolution 14–09

Affirmation of Academic Freedom and Shared Governance at the University of Illinois and throughout the American Public Higher Education System

Sponsored by John Protevi; Vincent LiCata; A. R. P. "Ravi" Rau; Michelle Massé; James Catano; Kathleen Bratton; and Jeffrey Roland

Whereas, following proper procedures of a national search and internal approvals from relevant academic units at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), from department to College Dean, up through the office of the Chancellor [1], a written offer of employment was issued on October 3, 2013 to Professor Steven Salaita for an appointment, with tenure, as Associate Professor [2];

Whereas Chancellor Phyllis Wise of UIUC, on August 1, 2014, summarily and without faculty consultation, informed Professor Salaita that she would not forward his offer of employment to the Board of Trustees, thereby undermining every preceding review by faculty and administrators, including those in her own office, and claiming for herself the right to judge Professor Salaita's fitness to teach without faculty consultation;

Whereas the national AAUP office [3], the Illinois state chapter of the AAUP [4], numerous scholarly organizations [5] -- including the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association, the American Historical Association, and the American Anthropological Association -- and many UIUC faculty members [6, 7] and academic units [8, 9] have decried Chancellor Wise's refusal to consult UIUC faculty on her decision as a violation of faculty governance;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University joins with our colleagues at UIUC and with the above-mentioned organizations to express our grave concern with the failure of Chancellor Wise to consult with UIUC faculty in the Salaita case;

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate reaffirms LSU's longstanding and cherished commitment to faculty governance.

[1]<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fyy0x8qrt2d90by/AAC0WKONDDh4upSnzgvrxnfa/Salaita.document.pdf?dl=0>

[2]<http://www.news-gazette.com/sites/all/files/pdf/2014/08/13/14-529.Documents.pdf>

[3]<http://www.aaup.org/file/AAUPLetterChancellorWise.pdf>

[4]<http://academeblog.org/2014/08/06/illinois-aaup-committee-a-statement-on-steven-salaita-and-uiuc/>

[5] <http://protevi.blogspot.com/protevi/2014/09/open-letters-on-the-salaita-case.html>

[6] <http://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/guest-commentary/2014-08-26/ui-precluded-any-honest-debate.html>

[7]http://michaelrothberg.weebly.com/uploads/5/4/6/8/5468139/letter_for_wise_meeting_8-17_pdf.pdf

[8]<http://michaelrothberg.weebly.com/blog/statement-of-the-executive-committee-of-the-program-in-jewish-culture-and-society-at-the-u-of-illinois>

[9] <http://protevi.blogspot.com/protevi/2014/09/uiuc-departments-voting-no-confidence.html>