

## Ann Gould

---

**From:** David Hughes <dhughes@AESOP.Rutgers.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 10:33 AM  
**To:** 'abg'  
**Cc:** dhughes@AESOP.Rutgers.edu  
**Subject:** symposium on academic freedom  
**Attachments:** Resolution re PTLs 9-9-15.pdf; Resolution regarding the allegations against Coach Kyle Flood 9-9-15.pdf

Hi, Ann:

The Union's Executive Committee met yesterday and gave me the green light to go ahead on this idea. (We also passed the attached resolutions, by the way – both related to PTLs.)

As we discussed, the Union would be keen to co-sponsor, with the Senate, a symposium on academic freedom in November. As I mentioned, 2015 is the 100-year anniversary of the AAUP, the national standard-bearer for academic freedom. We hope that this symposium will begin a process of updating the university's policy on academic freedom. The Senate, of course, has already done good work in arguing for such protections to cover faculty as they serve on governance bodies. Even if revised along these lines, however, the policy will still suffer from some notable gray areas, such as:

1. Grading as protected by academic freedom (e.g. the current instance of interference by Coach Kyle Flood);
2. Speech containing shocking, offensive, and or obscene statements or image (Prof. Deepa Kumar + Art History faculty in relation to the Pearson Contract);
3. Academics opining and lobbying on state legislation (Prof. Julia Rubin);
4. Controversial and disturbing material (re. trigger warnings);

As you can see, I have already thought of possible speakers for this panel. I have, however, dropped the idea of inviting Condoleeza Rice. The mere mention of her name stirs up to many other, distracting issues. Of course, as a co-sponsor, the Senate would be welcome to suggest additional issues and names.

From the Union's point of view, we are particularly eager to cooperate with the Senate because you are the logical body to revise the University's Policy on Academic Freedom. The Union would cover all the costs involved. I would be grateful for your reply as soon as your internal processes permit it.

Cheers,  
David

David M. Hughes  
Professor of Anthropology  
President, Rutgers AAUP-AFT  
Rutgers University