

American Association of University Professors Iowa State University Chapter



Statement Regarding the Appointment of J. Bruce Harreld as President of the University of Iowa

The national American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has articulated very clearly that the implementation of shared governance requires full faculty participation in the selection, evaluation, and retention of administrators.

The AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities (<http://www.aaup.org/report/statement-government-colleges-and-universities>) emphasizes the primary role of joint and mutual collaboration of faculty and board in the search for a president:

- “The president should be equally qualified to serve both as the executive officer of the governing board and as the chief academic officer of the institution and the faculty.”
- “The president should have the confidence of the board and the faculty.”

The Statement also notes:

- “Joint effort of a most critical kind must be taken when an institution chooses a new president. The selection of a chief administrative officer should follow upon a cooperative search by the governing board and the faculty, taking into consideration the opinions of others who are appropriately interested.”

The procedure followed by the Regents is in violation of this principle, as the opinions of the vast majority of faculty and students/staff regarding the inadvisability of Harreld’s appointment were summarily ignored.

Further, the AAUP’s statement on “Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Administrators” (1981) stipulates that because the “interdependence, communication, and joint action among the constituents of a college or university enhance the institution’s ability to solve educational problems,” it is crucial

- “... that faculty members will have a significant role in the selection of academic administrators, including the president, academic deans, department heads, and chairs.”

In furtherance of that goal,

- “Each major group should elect its own members to serve on the committee and the rules governing the search should be arrived at jointly.”
- “... the board, with which the legal power of appointment rests, should either select a name from among those submitted by the faculty committee or should agree that no person will be chosen over the objections of the faculty.”

Because the actions taken by the Board of Regents State of Iowa in their recent appointment of J. Bruce Harreld as president of the University of Iowa are in clear violation of both the spirit and the letter of these principles, the ISU Chapter of the AAUP supports the resolutions of no-confidence adopted by the University of Iowa Faculty Senate, the University of Iowa AAUP Chapter, and students and staff at the University of Iowa regarding the actions of the Board of Regents in conducting the presidential search for the University of Iowa.