April 25, 2017

Dear Academic Senate,

I am writing this letter as the chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights. This letter is a report of our committee activities during the academic year 2016-2017.

The committee had one case to handle this year. The case was filed on December 31st by a post-doctoral fellow in regards to employment issues. Post-docs are considered nonfaculty, but SCAFFR does handle any grievances associated with academic freedom of post-doctoral fellows. All parties named in the grievance were notified and provided a joint response to the grievance. The committee reviewed the case and came to a decision. A decision letter was sent to all parties of the grievance and the Senate president on January 25th.

The committee was also contacted by Matt Miller (Vice President of ASUU) about the ASUU request to modify the Faculty Code to change the delivery date of the content of the course, specific test dates, and modes of assessment from the first day of class to the time of registration. The committee met and discussed the pros and cons of these edits and made suggestions to Matt Miller about further wording changes. At the suggestion of the Senate president, Matt was to discuss the committee suggestions with ASUU, make edits, and send back to the Senate president for discussion by the Executive Committee.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 801-587-8325 or minteer@chem.utah.edu.

Sincerely,

Shelley D. Minteer, Ph.D.
USTAR Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science & Engineering