



# FIRE

Foundation for Individual  
Rights and Expression

October 14, 2022

Art M. Lee  
Vice President and Deputy General Counsel  
University of Arizona  
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P.O. Box 210066  
Tucson, Arizona 85721-0021

*Sent via Electronic Mail (amlee1@arizona.edu)*

Dear Vice President Lee:

FIRE writes to thank you for your response to our September 21 letter. However, we remain concerned about the state of free expression and academic freedom at U of A given your insistence that administrators did not exercise undue control over the selection of faculty appearing on the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure ballot.

It is uncontested that a single U of A staff member had the power to, and ultimately did, exclude Professors Keith Maggert, Matthew Abraham, and Wei Hua Lin from the CAFT ballot. U of A staffer Jane Cherry acknowledged she removed these professors from contention because she subjectively believed they were “problematic.” And multiple members of the nominating committee expressed concern regarding how faculty were selected for the ballot. This violates clear Faculty Senate policy, which states that it is faculty, not administrators, who select members of this critical oversight board.

FIRE values our relationship with U of A and your commitment to free speech and academic freedom. We aim to continue to work collaboratively on these issues, but U of A staff must not interfere with shared governance matters that are the sole provenance of faculty. We request a response affirming U of A’s commitment to academic freedom and shared governance by October 28, 2022.

We thank you for your continued attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Conza  
Program Officer, Campus Rights Advocacy