



Rensselaer

Charles F. Carletta, J.D.
*Secretary of the Institute
and General Counsel*

September 24, 2007

Dr. Cary Nelson, President
American Association of University Professors
1012 Fourteenth Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3465

Dear Dr. Nelson,

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is in receipt of a letter from the AAUP dated September 20, 2007 addressed to both its president and board chair signed by "Eric Combest, Associate Secretary". The letter addresses issues of faculty governance here at Rensselaer. It reflects opinions and reaches conclusions admittedly formed by "...information...primarily from faculty sources at RPI...". It also states an understanding "...that both the administration and the Faculty Senate agree that the time is ripe for a review of faculty governance...".

I find it highly irregular that a five-page letter, based on an admittedly biased representation of an internal matter, would emanate from someone within the AAUP without at least the professional courtesy of having contacted Rensselaer's Provost, Dr. Robert Palazzo, Mr. William Walker, Vice President for Strategic Communications and External Relations, or me in my capacity as Secretary of the Institute, in order to provide a balanced and objective perspective.

In reference to governance, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute does respect the principle widely held within the academic community that appropriately shared responsibility and cooperative action among the governing board, faculty, and administration in determining educational policy within an academic institution is the preferred course of action. The effectuation of that premise is, in fact, the intended and expected outcome of the current course of action on our campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles F. Carletta".

Charles F. Carletta, J.D.
Secretary of the Institute
and General Counsel

cc: Samuel F. Heffner
Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson