

2007-08 Committee Report

ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE: "We also serve who only stand and wait."

The year has passed without apparent controversies at Boston University regarding freedom of teaching, research, and public citizenship. That puts us well ahead of certain other "peer plus" institutions. Our academic freedom statement is well worth re-reading at the Provost's website, because it reminds us of our mutual rights and responsibilities. Academic freedom is not a cure-all for intra-departmental disputes and silent suffering from maladministration, as it traditionally does not apply to such matters. Sunshine is a great cure for wounds, however, and increased transparency of the University provides more awareness of where to go to deal informally with problems before they get bad. For example the Faculty Council's Faculty Advisory Committee provides a confidential place to seek advice, and the University's Grievance Procedure is available for matters of significant import, offering both informal and formal stages for seeking redress of grievances.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Skocpol

Chair, Faculty Council Committee on Academic Freedom - May 2008