UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
State University of New York

Office of the President

January 14, 2011

Mr. B. Robert Kreiser
Associate Secretary
American Association of University Professors
1133 Nineteenth Street, NW – Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036-3655

Dear Secretary Kreiser:

I am writing with regard to your letter of December 21, 2010. Again, I encourage you to visit the University at Albany's budget update website at http://www.albany.edu/budget for information to help address the inaccuracies and misunderstandings expressed in your letter.

While our earlier exchange of correspondence essentially pertained to factual matters which have been the subject of public discourse, your December 21st communication seeks to address directly the Association's recommended standards on academic freedom, tenure and governance with regard to our programmatic decisions. As you are aware, the faculty and professional support staff at SUNY Albany are represented by United University Professions (UUP). The collective bargaining agreement between the State and UUP contains specific provisions related to the areas you wish me to address.

In this regard, the applicable statutory structure in New York regarding organized labor prohibits the employer from discussing terms and conditions of employment with any entity other than the certified bargaining agent. I must, therefore, advise you that we are unable to engage in a dialogue on these issues. We will, however, continue to provide additional information on our budget web page regarding our situation as it develops.

Thank you for sharing the Association's views on these difficult issues.

Sincerely yours,

George M. Philip

George M. Philip
President

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