



Wichita State University Chapter Statement

A policy that was recently approved by the KBOR has dire consequences on academic programs in Kansas. Academic freedom of faculty has been stripped away by a “temporary” policy allowing university CEOs more power to dismiss, suspend or terminate employees, including tenured professors. This policy suspends the due process that has been in effect for many decades regarding tenured faculty. It violates the contractual agreement with tenured faculty, which is regarded as a major cornerstone of academic freedom. Such academic freedom has been a major factor in the quality of higher education. If the policy is implemented, its impact will spread beyond the individuals who may be terminated. Low morale will hit the remaining faculty as they are forced to carry an extensive workload. The impact of this policy will last well beyond the implementation period. Accreditation of various programs will suffer tremendously. Relationships with alumni and donors will subsequently deteriorate. Although this policy is introduced in the name of financial necessity, its true long-term impact on the budget will be much worse.

We ask all professors at WSU to join hands with all professors across the State and voice their strong opposition to this ruinous policy.
