

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA CHAPTER

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Statement from the Executive Committee of the UI Chapter

Recently, both the Regents-appointed president and the UI Faculty Council released statements, the former declaring his support for fundamental academic values and shared governance, the latter welcoming the declaration. The Executive Committee of the AAUP-UI Chapter wishes to respond to these developments.

The Faculty Council characterizes the outcome of the presidential search as controversial. We respectfully disagree. Rather, it was fundamentally flawed in ways that strike at the heart of academic values. These centuries-old principles and values affect the state of higher education in hundreds of colleges and universities around the country, and underlie the trust of millions of Americans who depend on public universities.

While we do not expect that every Regents' decision will reflect the faculty's position, we do expect that when the Regents seek faculty input, that input be taken seriously. It was not in the appointment of Mr. Harreld. Not only did the Regents override the clearly expressed and documented judgment of the entire campus community; but also, as press reports continue to reveal, the president of the BOR and the chair of the search committee recruited Mr. Harreld privately and clearly offered preferential treatment and access to some search committee and BOR members. There was no respect for academic values or shared governance, but only deception, in the secretive process that actually produced the Board's selection of Mr. Harreld. The very manner of this presidential appointment subverted, is inherently incompatible with, and remains in irresolvable opposition to shared governance and the integrity that is the fundamental condition for all other academic values.

Given the circumstances of Mr. Harreld's hiring, we are unable to credit his recent statement to the campus to the extent the Faculty Council has done. Compromised academic values cannot be revalidated by a mere declaration of support. Neither the Faculty Council nor the AAUP Chapter's Executive Committee has the authority to legitimate the outcome of an autocratic process that disregarded the principles of academic integrity.