

23 February 2023

From: Loyola AAUP chapter
To: Jen Lowry
Re: Proposed Center for Faculty Excellence

Dr. Lowry,

Loyola's AAUP chapter thanks you for the detailed and thoughtful proposal for a center aimed at the support of faculty and faculty development. However, we are concerned that the proposal makes no reference to the support of the core AAUP principles of academic freedom and shared governance. The proposal should make clear that while the center supports faculty teaching, it cannot infringe on the faculty member's academic freedom regarding course learning aims, structure, design, pedagogy, and grading. There is also concern about how the center would fit into the governance structure. What role would this office have in curricular decisions?

AAUP guidelines insist on the maintenance of academic freedom and of strong and transparent inclusion of faculty in all matters of governance. Academic freedom for tenured, tenure-track and teaching and clinical faculty should be recognized and strongly underscored at the outset of the proposal. Similarly, shared governance requires faculty input for all decisions made by what will essentially be a new administrative office. We strongly suggest inserting into the rationale the following:

This center will promote the core AAUP principles of academic freedom and shared governance. <https://www.aaup.org/about/mission-1>