

american political science association

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May 13, 2005

Ms. Sally Hunt,
General Secretary
Association of University Teachers
Egmont House
25-31 Tavistock Place
London
WC1H 9UT

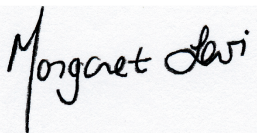
Dear Ms. Hunt:

On behalf of the Council and the Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights, and Freedoms of the American Political Science Association, I am writing to convey the following statement, issued in conjunction with the position expressed by the American Association of University Professors, with respect to the academic boycott recently adopted by the AUT.

“The American Political Science Association, through action by its Council and its Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights, and Freedoms, supports the views expressed in the May 3, 2005 statement by the AAUP against academic boycotts. We join in condemning the resolutions of the AUT that damage academic freedom and we call for their repeal.”

We hope that these matters can be resolved quickly and in a manner that affirms our common interest in higher education and academic freedom.

Sincerely,



Margaret Levi
President

Attachment:

cc: American Association of University Professors
American Political Science Association membership

APSA Council, 2004-2005

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University of Washington, Seattle

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Networking a World of Scholars

Release date: May 3, 2005 Contact: Jonathan Knight (202)737-5900, ext. 3023 or jknight@aaup.org

Washington, D.C.

The American Association of University Professors issued the following statement.

Academic Boycott

Delegates to a recent meeting of the British Association of University Teachers (AUT) approved resolutions that damage academic freedom. The resolutions call on all members of AUT to “refrain from participation in any form of academic and cultural cooperation, collaboration, or joint projects” with two universities in Israel, Haifa University and Bar Ilan University. Excluded from the ban are “conscientious Israeli academics and intellectuals opposed to their state’s colonial and racist policies,” an exclusion which, because it requires compliance with a political or ideological test in order for an academic relationship to continue, deepens the injury to academic freedom rather than mitigates it.

These resolutions have been met with strong condemnation and calls for repeal within the United Kingdom and elsewhere. The American Association of University Professors joins in condemning these resolutions and in calling for their repeal. Since its founding in 1915, the AAUP has been committed to preserving and advancing the free exchange of ideas among academics irrespective of governmental policies and however unpalatable those policies may be viewed. We reject proposals that curtail the freedom of teachers and researchers to engage in work with academic colleagues, and we reaffirm the paramount importance of the freest possible international movement of scholars and ideas. The AAUP urges the AUT to support the right of all in the academic community to communicate freely with other academics on matters of professional interest.