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Academic Tenure

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ACADEMIC TENURE

Why should a faculty want to negotiate union-type contracts when they already have the most delicious employment agreement imaginable? Most union-labor contracts have some provision for termination but in education we have tenure.

Definition of administrator--a manager of tensions. How can an administrator manage the tensions between the students' demand for relevance and the faculty members' prerogative of tenure. (A contract even including tenure is only one-way traffic anyway; it only says the university can't fire the teacher; it doesn't say the teacher can't leave the university, in August or even in April.)

Why do we keep this awfully massive commitment on the part of the institution? It is argued that it is to protect academic freedom but is there really any relationship between academic freedom and tenure? There is certainly none historically. It was originated only as a form of intellectual-social security. (Moral turpitude is today indefinable, and incompetence is unprovable.)

It is agreed that the teacher should be protected against some things. However, it doesn't seem reasonable that the teacher should be protected against termination of service or against student analysis and evaluation and criticism, or against harassment by those in whose interest is the improvement of the quality of his teaching.

I am opposed to automatic tenure and to the traditional meaning and application of the term and I plead academic freedom as my right to say so!

Tenure ought to mean a willingness to think with excitement about different

and better ways to do things. If we aren't going to do more things better and more better things, then, for the students' sake, we shouldn't be kept on just because we've been here 7 or 27 years.

The only tenure that is valid is the tenure which the Dean initiates and strongly urges upon a faculty member. This could be a tool for improvement of teaching and toward the achievement of the purposes of the program.