

Carleton College
One North College Street
Northfield, Minnesota 55057-4025

Department of Mathematics

December 18, 1986

(507) 663-4360

Ms. Frieda K. Holley
830 Columbia Place
Boulder, CO 80303

Dear Ms. Holley:

I am writing to you on behalf of the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America in order to ask help from your Section of the MAA on the matter of academic freedom. In order to explain, I'll have to give you some background on the current concern of the North Central Section.

In 1962, the Board of Regents of the state of South Dakota was censured by the AAUP for dismissing, without due process, a professor--a distinguished scholar in his field, in fact--who had served the South Dakota State University for fifteen years. (In 1982, there was a similar summary dismissal of a faculty member at Northern State College, another institution governed by the South Dakota Board of Regents. This action resulted in further censure by the AAUP.) To this day, the South Dakota State University remains on the censured list of the AAUP, albeit with the specific indication that it is the Board of Regents that is being censured and not the administrations at the individual colleges and universities.

In the fall of 1983, the North Central Section of the MAA had its semi-annual meeting in Brookings, the location of South Dakota State University. At that meeting, the group passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the North Central Section of the MAA refuse all invitations to meet at colleges or universities that are held to be in violation of the principles of academic freedom and tenure by the American Association of University Professors.

In the three years since we passed that resolution, there has been some movement by the Executive Director of the Board of Regents, but that movement has not resulted--as yet--in any guarantee of the right of due process to faculty members. Accordingly, our Section voted on October 25, 1986, to establish a committee to pursue more vigorously an attempt to move the recalcitrant Board of Regents to a position where it would agree to guarantee the right to due process. As chairman of this committee, I have already taken a number of steps toward carrying out the charge given by the Section on October 25. Among other things, I am pleased to report that our efforts have

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resulted in the National Education Association and its branch, the South Dakota Educational Association, joining forces with the AAUP in trying to effect some reform. In particular, the SDEA is now negotiating a contract with the South Dakota State Universities and is attempting to negotiate into the new contract some basic principles of academic freedom, notably an acceptance of the 1940 Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure of the AAUP (which the NEA has adopted).

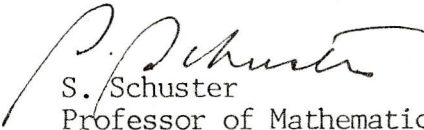
Now, to the main point of this letter, which is to ask your Section to support us in our campaign, particularly because your Section includes some South Dakota territory. The kind of support that we would like to have would be for your Section to pass a resolution similar to the one we passed in the fall of 1983, and to make it known to the Board of Regents of South Dakota and, perhaps beyond (e.g., the news media). The way to inform the Board of Regents of your action would be to write to:

Roger T. Schinness
Executive Director
South Dakota Board of Regents
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501 .

If you are willing to support us by passing such a resolution, then I might suggest that you inform the chairs at SDSU and Northern State. They would certainly be encouraged by such action.

Incidentally, as part of the "vigorous action" to support our Section's efforts on behalf of college and university faculty in South Dakota, we shall be prevailing upon other academic groups to support our position in the same way that I am asking you to. In particular, we hope soon to have such support from the American Chemical Society and the South Dakota Psychiatric Association.

Sincerely,


S. Schuster
Professor of Mathematics

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March 31, 1987

Rebekka Struik
Department of Mathematics
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309

Dear Rebekka:

Thanks very much for a copy of your letter to Frieda Holley.

I was delighted to receive it, because one of the arguments for opposing my position at the last North Central Section MAA meeting was that there was no support from the Rocky Mountain Section, thus encouraging the Regents of the University of South Dakota to ignore our concern for the fair treatment of university professors.

In addition, the kind of support that you are planning for the Rocky Mountain Section is far more than perfunctory.

Sincerely,



S. Schuster
Professor of Mathematics