



March 10, 2021

Collin College Board of Trustees: Dr. J. Robert Collins, Mr. Andrew Hardin, Mr. Jim Orr,
Dr. Raj Menon, Ms. Stacy Anne Arias, Dr. Stacey Donald, Mr. Greg Gomel, Mr. Fred
Moses, Mr. Jay Saad

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Dear Collin College Board of Trustees:

I am writing on behalf of the Texas Conference (chapter) of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The AAUP was founded in 1915, and over the years has worked with university administrators and governing boards to define and promote fundamental values and standards for higher education. For example, our 1940 [Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#) was jointly formulated with the [Association of American Colleges and Universities](#), and our [1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities](#) was developed in conjunction with the [American Council on Education](#) and the [Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges](#) (the latter of which should be of particular interest to each of you). As a result, our guidelines regarding academic freedom and shared governance are widely regarded by faculty, university administration, and governing boards alike

The Texas Conference includes members from approximately 80 institutions of higher education across Texas, including many in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex (e.g., at

Rather, we simply urge the Board to intervene, and restore the contracts of professors Jones, Heaslip, and Burnett. In the case of Dr. Burnett, regardless as to whether you share (or do not share) her views, it is clear that she was expressing her opinions as a private citizen, and was not speaking in her capacity as an employee of Collin College. Accordingly, she should be free from institutional retribution. We are also highly dismayed that professors Jones and Heaslip's dismissals were based, in large part, on their disagreement with Collin COVID policy. In addition to the egregious

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Jones", is written over a horizontal bar with a multi-colored gradient (purple, blue, green, yellow, red).

