

Proposals for Improving the Operation of NY Committee A  
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1. We should renew publication of the article on the work of NY Committee A that ran regularly in *New York Academe* when John Diehl was the editor. I already have agreed with Jeff Krauss that the article will be printed again on a regular basis. This should help raise the visibility of New York Committee A.

2. We should undertake an annual survey of academic freedom in New York modeled on the simple survey we did this year, but done in a more sophisticated way that not only provides more information but allows the results to be compared from year to year. Confidentiality concerning institutions and individuals would have to be a basic premise of such a survey. The survey will not only provide information, but further raise the visibility of NY Committee A among our chapter leaders.

3. Consider our relationship with national Committee A. All of you know that this is a complex area, and historically national Committee A has operated independently from all conferences. In a specific case, it may solicit our help, but it does not routinely inform us of all cases in New York. We do not routinely inform national Committee A of inquiries we receive, but we do involve national Committee A if a case proceeds from advice to action. If we call on national Committee A to take on a particular case, national decides whether to accept our recommendation. Once it becomes involved in a case, whether a case referred by NY Committee A, or one that came to it directly, national Committee A operates independently and involves NY Committee A, the leadership of the NY Conference, and sometimes the chapter leadership on the affected campus as it wishes. This has led to discord in the past. If there is to be a new relationship, it will take careful discussion since we are working against a very long history here. I see any such discussions as cooperative and designed to improve the defense of academic freedom in NY. Personally, I am not interested in a confrontational approach that will accomplish nothing but reopening past disputes, and will thus waste the time of all concerned. If the Executive Committee authorizes such a dialogue, it will of necessity involve our conference president in a major way, and probably require the assistance of our representatives on the AAUP National Council. We should not undertake it unless we are willing to commit the necessary time and effort. Of course, we do not know how national Committee A would respond to a call for discussion, but if we are ready to move forward, we certainly can take the initiative and see what happens.