

NO REASON GIVEN

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AAUP-ATL meeting cancelled; Groat claims freedom of ideas

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The meeting planned between the MSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors and the ATL advisory committee, which recommended that three non-tenured instructors not be re-hired, was not held Wednesday night.

James Harrington Jr., chairman of the AAUP committee on academic freedom and student affairs, would give no reason for the cancellation.

"We're afraid at this stage that any statement we make will be prejudicial to our case in the future," Harrington said.

"The meeting was cancelled. They withdrew the invitation," Harrington said.

His committee will meet Sunday with the elected officers of the AAUP chapter to discuss a resolution on the matter. Harrington doesn't anticipate action on the resolution Sunday.

"We are still actively engaged in this case," he said.

Adding new light to the controversy Thursday was a letter from W. Gary Groat to the AAUP, requesting their intervention.

Groat, who together with Ken Lawless and Robert S. Fogarty learned that his department didn't want to rehire him, released a copy of the letter to the State News.

In it he says that the principal objections to his reappointment seem to have been that he was a "negative influence in the ATL Dept." and that he was "rude."

"I do not believe that these are the actual reasons for my dismissal," Groat said.

"To my knowledge, my ability as a college instructor was not questioned, even by those who voted for my dismissal."

"Secondly, I believe that I would have
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ATL meeting

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been reappointed on the basis of my work... (on) the MSU American Studies Seminars during the past two years, and... (as) the principal faculty member involved in organizing, advising and publishing the quarterly journal, *Zeitgeist*, as well as its numerous related activities such as poetry readings and 'Culture Fests'...

"No one who has followed the successive series of administrative attempts to muffle the free exchange of ideas during the past year can doubt that our dismissal is only the most recent of these attempts."