

Carlin blasts AAUP statement

Edward A. Carlin, dean of the University College, claimed in a statement issued Tuesday that the MSU council of the American Assn. of University Professors (AAUP) has "deliberately maligned the integrity and good faith of all who participated in the decision" not to rehire three non-tenured American Thought and Language instructors. He challenged the council to prove its charge or retract it publicly.

Calling the statement "the most irresponsible it has been my poor fortune to read," Carlin said the council has "managed to deal a body blow to orderly procedures in the department, to cast suspicion on the integrity of its advisory committee and to clothe itself with

superior judgment in an area where it is patently incompetent."

The council's statement, he said, was "done in the name of academic freedom" but "flies in the face of the true purpose of academic freedom, namely to enable a member of the academic community to render an opinion or a judgment in the area of his competence without fear of reprisals."

Carlin said the AAUP action "unfortunately has far wider implications than the specific ATL situation."

"What advisory committee in ATL or any other department...is likely to function fearlessly and freely in the knowledge that their deliberations, their opinions, and their judgments may be the reasons for charges of bad faith or lack of integrity?

"What happens to the quality of the

faculty in a university where the democratically elected advisory committee is harassed when it makes a professional judgment about the competence of a non-tenured colleague?"

Clinton Snyder, one of the four members of the AAUP committee which initially investigated the ATL situation, charged Tuesday that the council "ignored due process" in deciding to comment now.

"I don't think it has in any way been given full consideration," he said.

"Unless the council had access to information which we on the committee didn't have," said the associate professor of social science, "there has been a serious lack of due process."

He said that once the matter was referred to the AAUP committee on academic freedom, the council should have waited for their report before acting.

"If, as a member of the committee, I disagree," he said, "I should have a chance to formally dissent."