

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, COLORADO CONFERENCE OF THE AAUP

April 24, 2007

The Honorable Hank Brown
President, University of Colorado

Dear President Brown:

The Executive Committee of the American Association of University Professors' Colorado Conference has reviewed evidence regarding criticisms of the "Report of the Investigative Committee on Research Misconduct at CU-Boulder concerning Allegations of Academic Misconduct against Prof. Churchill" (May 9, 2006). The Executive Committee agrees that the evidence, supplied by Professor Eric Cheyfitz, Ernest I. White, Professor of American Studies and Humane Letters at Cornell University, is compelling.

In light of this new information, we believe the request that the report be rescinded, as called for in the "Open Letter from Faculty Calling for Churchill Report Retraction," should be taken seriously. As outlined in the faculty letter, the flaws in the Report are so serious that that no legitimate action can be taken on the basis of the information contained therein.

If the Report is not rescinded, it is incumbent upon the University of Colorado to ensure the Cheyfitz evidence is thoroughly examined for its validity and its impact on the original Report. The integrity of scholarly practice and the procedures governing reviews, due process, academic freedom and faculty governance at CU require that this examination be done by an independent, qualified, and unbiased panel, not by the investigating committee that made the apparent mistakes in the first place. Further, no action should be taken on the basis of the Report until this examination is completed.

Sincerely,

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