

1921–1955

Early Triumphs and Failures

The three and a half decades from 1921 to 1955 were punctuated by world-historical events: the crash of the stock market and the ensuing Great Depression, World War II, and the beginning of the Cold War. For the young AAUP, the period was marked by great accomplishment and great failure, as well as numerous smaller milestones—the establishment of a national office with a professional staff, the development of censure procedures, and the inauguration of the faculty salary survey.

The landmark achievement of the period was the drafting of the Association's central policy document, the 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure*. The 1940 *Statement*, jointly formulated with the Association of American Colleges, established norms for the protection of academic freedom and provisions for tenure that hold force to this day.

The AAUP's own commitment to these principles, however, would soon be severely tested by the growing anticommunist fervor in the United States. At the height of the McCarthy era—a time when repeated violations of academic freedom desperately called for a response—the AAUP was quiet, failing to issue a single investigative report for seven years.

1925

The AAUP participates in the drafting of the *Conference Statement on Academic Freedom and Tenure*—the first jointly formulated statement to enumerate principles of academic freedom—at a meeting of higher education organizations.

1928

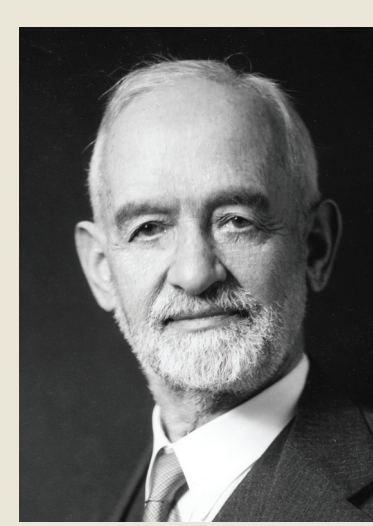
AAUP members in Iowa establish the first state conference of AAUP chapters.

1929

The US stock market crashes, bringing the "roaring twenties" to a sudden end and marking the beginning of the decade-long Great Depression.

1930

The AAUP's national office is established. H. W. Tyler, a recently retired mathematics professor from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who had followed Lovejoy as second secretary of the Association and served in that capacity until 1930, heads the new office as general secretary.



H. W. Tyler

1931

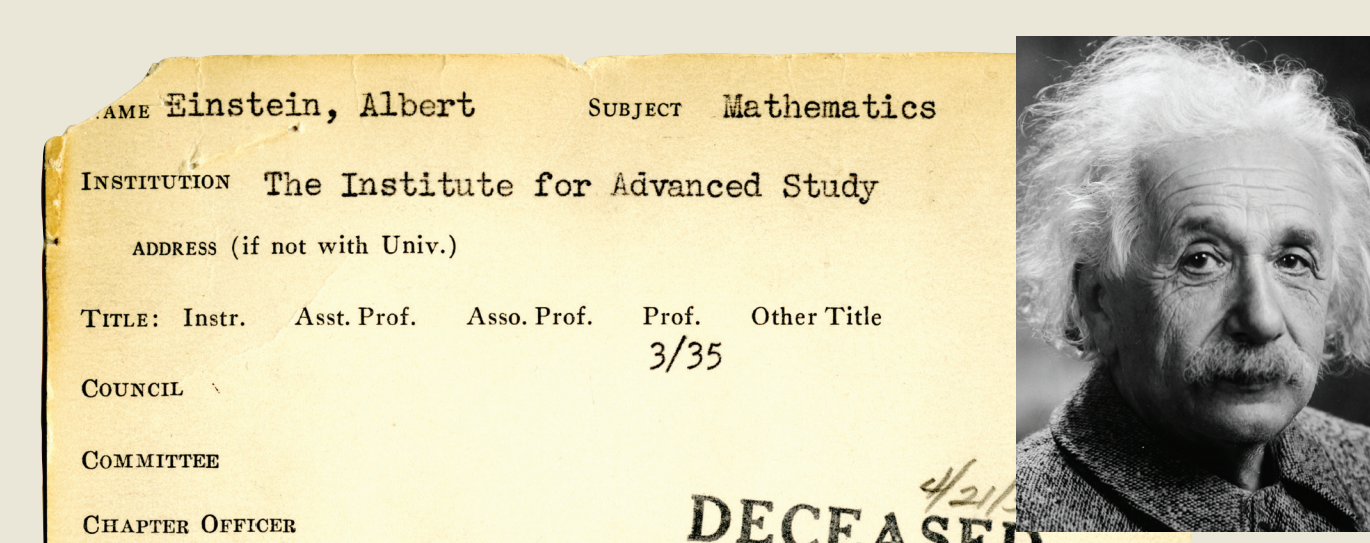
The AAUP's membership exceeds ten thousand.

1932

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected president and pledges "a new deal for the American people."

1937

An investigation into the nonreappointment of Jerome Davis, a long-serving professor at Yale Divinity School who had advocated for organized labor and other social causes, calls attention to the need for a probationary period of standard length.



Albert Einstein's AAUP membership card. Einstein was an AAUP member from 1935 until his death in 1955.

1940

A series of joint conferences begun in the mid-1930s between the Association of American Colleges (now the Association of American Colleges and Universities) and the AAUP culminates in agreement on a reformulation of the principles laid out in the 1925 *Conference Statement on Academic Freedom and Tenure*. The resulting 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure* defines faculty rights and responsibilities with regard to speech in the classroom, extramural speech, and research and establishes a maximum seven-year probationary period for tenure.

1941

The United States enters World War II after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

1944

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly referred to as the GI Bill, is signed into law. Millions of veterans enter college in the years following the law's passage, nearly doubling the student population.



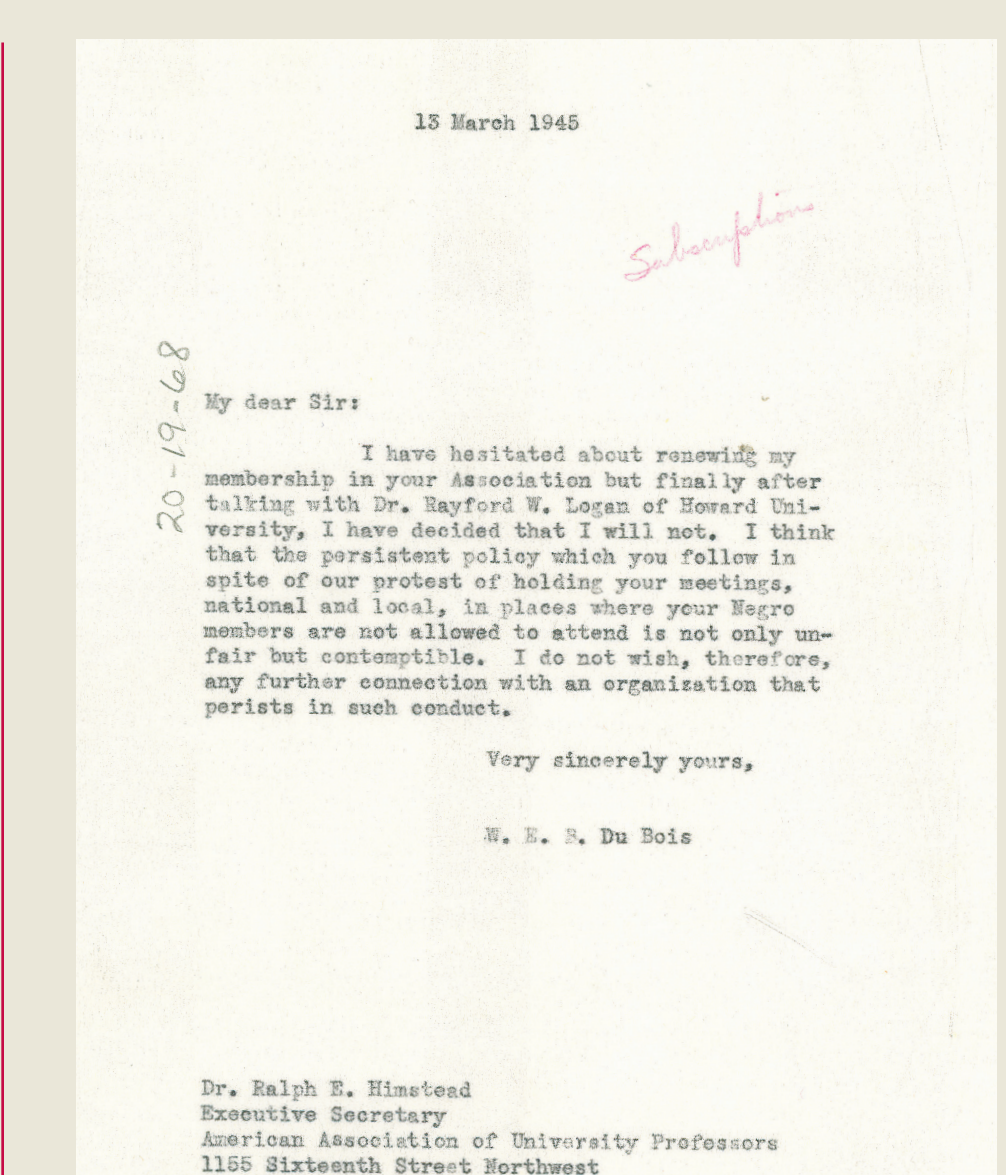
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signs the GI Bill.

1945

World War II ends.

1946

The President's Commission on Higher Education is charged with examining the role of higher education in postwar America. A year later, the resulting Truman Commission Report recommends a massive expansion of college enrollments and the establishment of a network of community colleges.



A 1945 letter to the national office from W. E. B. Du Bois, who had been an AAUP member since 1937. Du Bois resigned his membership in protest of the AAUP's use of segregated hotels for meetings.

1947

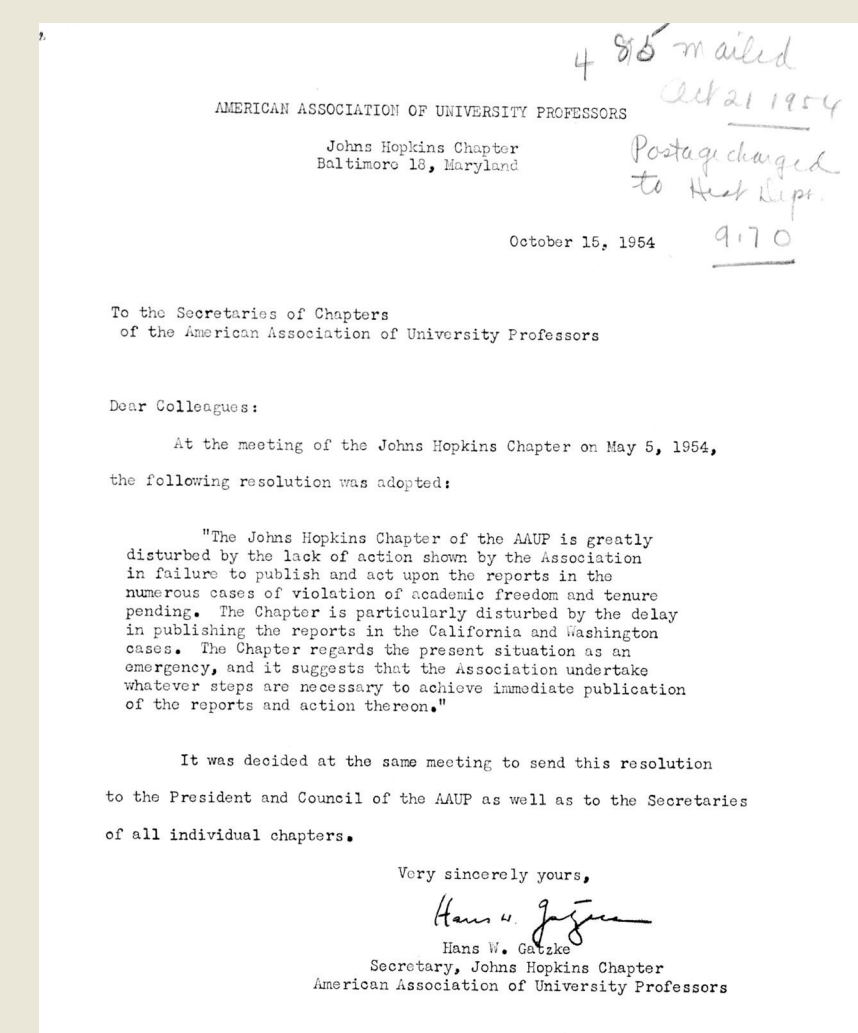
The AAUP's membership exceeds twenty thousand.



Ralph Hinestead, the AAUP's general secretary from 1936 to 1955

1948

The AAUP's Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession publishes the results of its first survey of faculty salaries.



A 1944 letter from the Johns Hopkins University chapter of the AAUP protesting the Association's inaction during the McCarthy years

1949

After releasing an investigation of Evansville College (and declining to impose censure), the AAUP enters a period of relative inactivity.

1954

The US Supreme Court rules in *Brown v. Board of Education* that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

1955

The election of new Council members and officers, together with changes in the AAUP's national office, brings to an end the AAUP's quiescence during the McCarthy era.

Physics. Ph.D., man, ex. research, no children, four years high school and seven years college teaching experience. Publications: six research papers, one popular article in *Science*, one in *Physics*. Research in: quantum mechanics, atomic structure, and theory of relativity. A 1931. Physics, Mathematics. Ph.D. from MIT, former university. Now research in: quantum mechanics, atomic structure, and theory of relativity. A 1931. Biology. Special field: General Physiology, Ph.D. Harvard. Five years high school teaching, one year research in Germany, publications: one in *Biological Journal*, one in *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. A 1931. Chemistry. Ph.D. from MIT, former university. Now research in: quantum mechanics, atomic structure, and theory of relativity. A 1931. German, French, Italian. European origin, native ability, married man, candidate for Ph.D. state university, seven years Eastern high school and college experience, one book. A 1931. Mathematics. Ph.D. from MIT, former university. Now research in: quantum mechanics, atomic structure, and theory of relativity. A 1931. History of Religion, Bible, Oriental History. Man, several years experience in college teaching. Now research in: quantum mechanics, atomic structure, and theory of relativity. A 1931. English. Man, Ph.D., 12 years teaching in college and seven university. High school and college. College involvement since 1931. A 1931. Man, ex. research, Ph.D., Columbia, experience in secondary school. Educational psychology, college and research, measurement, and teacher training, nature of personality, non-empirical. A 1931. Psychology. Man, ex. Ph.D., Columbia, successful teacher, publications, multiple papers in research about child, experimental in preparation and written (figure in an original column in *Psychology*). A 1931. Music. Theory of Music and Organ. Man, A.B. and M.A., Oberlin College. Many years teaching in various colleges and universities. Three years study in Europe. Doctor position in Ohio or neighboring state. A 1931. English. Man, ex. Ph.D., six years experience as college teacher, research, minor publications. Now employed, doctor degree. A 1931. Economics. College teaching experience. Publications. Ph.D., research. A 1931. Chemistry. Man, research, Ph.D., fourteen years in college and state university. Position now vacant but foreign change. World war service position as professor or instructor in strong liberal arts college. A 1931. Biology. Research, Ph.D., training on both East and West coasts. Major papers on genetics. A 1931. American Government. Man, M.A., candidate, Ph.D., state. Professor. Broad experience, foreign travel. Specialty contemporary theory, nature position, individual in East. Now employed. A 1931. German and Humanities. Ph.D., foreign travel. Six years university teaching. Doctor position in summer school. A 1931.

McGraw-Hill publishes *Depression, Recovery, and Higher Education*, a book-length report by a special committee of the AAUP that addresses the consequences of the Great Depression for faculty members, students, and institutions. The volume anticipates future reports on the economic status of the profession.

1938

The AAUP establishes policies for formally censuring administrations for violations of principles of academic freedom and tenure and begins publishing censure lists in the *Bulletin*.

"Teachers Available," March 1938, *Bulletin of the American Association of University Professors*

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free expression.

—1940 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE

