

ASU Faculty; "No Confidence" in Close Vote

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In a secret paper ballot, the ASU faculty senate returned a "no confidence" vote Monday, no confidence in the leadership of Provost Lori Gonzalez and Vice Provost Tony Carey. But the vote was close; The Appalachian reported that the senate voted against Gonzalez 22 to 21 and Carey by a wider margin of 26 to 17. The petition that led to the vote cited "a pattern of disregard for academic freedom" as well as "the due process rights of faculty members have been ignored by these same administrators." Part of the issue seems to come from the dismissal of tenured professor Jammie Price, whose suspension for showing a sexually explicit movie in her class drew press attention and faculty support from a number of universities. Her case has one more appeal still pending before the Board of Trustees. She filed her appeal on December 22 and is awaiting a decision, with the appeal being reviewed by a special committee headed by Trustee H. Martin Lancaster. The faculty senate petition said that Gonzalez and Carey have denied faculty governance and have been "non responsive to and dismissive of questions and concerns of faculty members." The motions were brought about by a petition signed by 88 tenured faculty members, received by the Faculty Senate Executive Board March 4, according to the agenda summary of the March 25 Faculty Senate meeting.