Summary of remarks at Threats to the University, Humanities, and Science Conference, London/Cambridge, July 20-22, 2011

Session on Threats to Academic Freedom:

**Robert Post**

In the United States, academic freedom consists of freedom to research and publish, freedom to teach, freedom of intramural speech, and freedom of extramural speech. Freedom of research and publication, and freedom of teaching, mean that the performance of university scholars shall be evaluated on the basis of disciplinary competence rather than on the basis of the prejudices of public opinion or the political priorities of the state. Freedom of intramural speech means that university scholars shall not, except in unusual circumstances, be penalized for speech concerning the governance of universities. Freedom of extramural speech means that the participation as citizens of university professors in public debate shall not, except in very unusual circumstances, be used as a basis for penalizing their professional academic career. Academic freedom does not typically override otherwise general rules of behavior, like criminal law. For a detailed discussion, see Matthew W. Finkin & Robert C. Post, *For the Common Good: Principles of American Academic Freedom* (Yale University Press 2009). For a discussion of the constitutional foundations of academic freedom in the United States, see Robert C. Post, *Democracy, Expertise, Academic Freedom: A First Amendment Jurisprudence for the Modern State* (Yale University Press (2012)).