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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Francis Higman, Niagara University (Emeritus);
fhigman@aol.com
VICE PRESIDENT
Kathleen M. Smith (2006-08) Molloy College;
ksmith@molloy.edu
VICE PRESIDENT
Philip M. Gray (2007-09) D’Youville College;
graypm@dyc.edu
TREASURER
Cecelia McCall (2007-09) Professional Staff Congress; cmccall@nysaaup.org
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
Lesley Beaky (2005-08) LaCharte Community College; beaky@lacharte.edu
Patricia W. Bentley (2006-09) SUNY Plattsburgh; bentlefp@plattsburgh.edu
Ellen Schrecker (2004-07) Yeshiva University; schrecker@yeshiva.edu
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COUNCIL
Estelle S. Gelman (2005-08) Hofstra University; estelle.s.gellman@hofstra.edu
Cecelia McCull (2005-2008)
STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS
COMMITTEE A:
ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE
Irwin Yellowitz (2006-09) City College/CUNY (Emeritus); yellowitz@aol.com
COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAIN AND MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Kathleen M. Smith (2006-08) Molloy College
COMMITTEE ON CONTINGENT FACULTY
Lawrence Kaplan (2005-08) Queens College/CUNY (Emeritus); kmellettes@aol.com
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tom Policano at Box 20047
Rochester, NY 14602
888.690.2287
585.719.7317
585.427.8526
Fastpostcard@nysaaup.org
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS
PRESIDENT
Stephen Z. Goldberg, Adelphi University; sgoldberg@adelphi.edu
VICE PRESIDENT
Kathleen M. Smith (2006-08) Molloy College; kschein@molloy.edu
SECRETARY
Cecelia McCall (2007-09) Professional Staff Congress; cmccall@nysaaup.org
MEMBERS ELECTED AT LARGE
Ellen Banks (2006-08) Daemen College; chucks@daemen.edu
Philip M. Gray (2007-09)Y’sville College; graypm@dyc.edu
David Linton (2006-2008) Marymount Manhattan College;  phiếu@nymac.edu
John Marino (2007-09) UUP-United University Professions; jmario@uupmail.org
WASHINGTON DC CONFERENCE OFFICERS
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Francis Higman, Niagara University (Emeritus); fhigman@aol.com
VICE PRESIDENT
Jeffrey Kraus, Wagner College; jkraus@wagner.edu; jkraus@nysaaup.org
TREASURER
Estelle S. Gelman (2005-08) Hofstra University; estelle.s.gellman@hofstra.edu
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tom Policano at Box 20047
Rochester, NY 14602
888.690.2287
585.719.7317
585.427.8526
Fastpostcard@nysaaup.org
CONFERECE WEB SITE IS
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The New AAUP New York State Conference Web Site is
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NEW YORK STATE CONFERENCE – AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS
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STATE AAUP MEETING
Set for October 19-20
The fall meeting of the New York State Conference will take place October 19-
20, 2007 at the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) headquarters in
Latham, New York. All members are invited to attend.
Planning for the fall meeting is presently underway under the leadership of
Executive Committee Ellen Banks (Daemen College).
The tentative agenda can be found on the Conference website (http://nysaaup.org). Suggestions for agenda items may be forwarded to Executive
Director Tom Policano by e-mail: tpolicano@nysaaup.org.
This fall, the agenda includes a discussion of Campus Equity Week that is
scheduled for Saturday, October 20, and a discussion of the proposed AAUP re-
organization.
A block of rooms is available at the Desmond Hotel (a union hotel) that is locat-
ed a short distance away from NYSUT in Albany. New York hotel associations can be
made at the rate of $118/night (until September 28) by calling the Desmond at
(518)449-8100.
The NYSUT headquarters is located at 800 Troy-Schenectady Road in Latham,
Directions to NYSUT can be found on their website: NYSUT.org.
STATE AAUP MEETING
Set for October 29 to November 4
Campus Equity Week will be October 29 to November 4 this year, and local
planning is underway.
Known as Fair Employment Week in some states and in Canada, it is designed to
draw attention to the dramatic decrease in the proportion of professors who
hold tenure-track positions—only now 35 percent of the faculty in the United
States. Part-time and non-tenure track faculty are often subject to exploitative
employment conditions, and the dwindling number of tenure-track faculty threat-
en the quality of life for those who remain.
Campus Equity Week occurs biannually. During the 2005 week, faculty
activists across the United States and Canada demanded costumes, participated in
demonstrations on campus, gave speeches to adjunct faculty, and hosted film screenings. Faculty design activities that best suit their local condi-
tions in touch with one another, support statewide legislation, inform campus com-
ounities about the exploitation of contingent faculty, or achieve specific change
on campus.
In New York, the Rochester Institute of Technology AAUP Chapter will con-
duct all RET adjuncts and invite them to a get-together, will partly subsidize
first-year dues for adjuncts who are not yet AAUP members and are interested in
joining, and encourage and support the formation of an adjunct coalition within
the chapter. The chapter also proposes thatadjuncts ask for a representative seat
on the Instructive Assembly.
The AAUP is a sponsor of Campus Equity Week. For more information on
Campus Equity Week activities and how you can mount your own, visit
www.campus equityweek.org.
THE AAUP NEW YORK STATE CONFERENCE WEB SITE IS
www.nysaaup.org
From the President’s Desk:
By Stephen Z. Goldberg, Adelphi University
As I read the AAUP statement “Freedom in the Classroom” (Academic, Sept-Oct 2007, pages 54-61), or http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/committees/AAUPstatement.html, I decided to make an editorial con-
nection to a quote I had heard a few days ear-
er….in 2007 State of the University Address, Adelphi’s president, Robert Scott, quoted an unpublished essay by Nicholas Mani.
The prime function of Art is to disturb the status quo. The prime function of Entertainment is to confirm the status quo. A shake up our world with the implication that things need to change. The other relax us with the implication that everything is okay just as it is. These words apply not only to art, but perhaps even more appropriately to the entire academic enterprise. Education, by its nature, a challenging endeavor.
Even if as Woody Allen said, “90% of life is just showing up,” it is the remaining 10% which makes the difference: If as our students progress through their academic careers they continue to view themselves as consumers whose tuition dollars entitle them to certain grades or degrees our institutions have failed them and have failed society.
We are to be successful in our efforts to provide higher education we have an obligation to challenge our students. Sometimes these challenges simply involve the presentation of difficult material which students must master. At other times the challenges involve presenting ideas with which students might be uncomfortable. These ideas may or may not be political in nature. If there is any meaningful orthodoxy in the academy it is not the orthodoxy of the left or of the right, but a commitment to the exchange of ideas and the search for knowl-
edge and understanding. Just as the word theory has a different meaning in sci-
ence than it does in common usage, so too in the university the meaning of liber-
ty is different from the meaning of liberty in a political context.
As university faculty we must assiduously maintain communities which are open for debate so that good ideas prevail over bad, and that facts tri-
umph over mere assertions.
Good scholarship should be respected no matter how uncomfortable it makes one feel. Similarly, poor scholarship should be rejected no matter how comfort-
 ing it might be.
While the “Freedom in the Classroom” statement seems directed primarily towards attacks from David Horowitz and others on the right, we as a communi-
ty of scholars be equally concerned with attacks from other sources. Faculty and administrators should have a common interest in maintaining the integrity of our institutions. The recent, much publicized, case at DePaul and a situation developing at Barnard (New York Times, Sept 29, page B1) are just two which should be concern of all of us. Are tenure decisions being made on the traditional criteria of teaching, research and service, or are new criteria being applied? The confident university will tell its alumni and campus community, itself and its processes, can state that it has sought appropriate expert opinions on a tenure candidate’s scholarship, teaching and service, and will not give weight to unsu-
licitied opinions submitted by others. The confident university will tell its alumni that its ability to provide the kind of education they received from their alma

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Executive Director's Report

By Tom Policino

Welcome back to a new school year! The NYS AAUP Conference leadership looks forward to assisting in the preparation and facilitation of faculty initiatives in this upcoming academic year. Please contact us with your needs and any concerns you may have. We will again this year complete a survey to update your Institute information. Congratulations to Hofstra College for forming a new AAUP Chapter. They have built up their membership, completed their bylaws, and plan to submit their application to the AAUP by the next school year.

Our organization, the AAUP, has members of all political persuasions. As a professional organization, we are dedicated to upholding the values of academic freedom, tenure, and shared governance in higher education. These values are necessary to ensure the quality of higher education and to protect the rights of students and faculty. We are committed to the principles of academic freedom and tenure, and we will continue to work to protect these values.

AAUP Nominating Committee Report

2007 National Officer Nominees

President
Cary Nelson (English), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Jeffrey A. Butts (Educational Policy), California State University, Fullerton
Siegfried E. Heit (French), University of Illinois at Chicago
First Vice President
Scruby Scholtz (English), Baruch College
Second Vice President
Estelle S. Gillman (Educational Psychology), Hofstra University
Judy Lasker (Classical Studies), University of Richmond
Secretary-Treasurer
Howard Runis (Accounting), Eastern Michigan University
Ellen Schecker (History), Yeshiva University

AAUP's national office on or before December 15.


As a new academic year begins, the president of the nation’s largest higher education union says that SUNY is better equipped than it’s been in years to handle the record number of students enrolled this fall, thanks in no small measure to the issues’s push for additional funding.

William Scheuerman, president of University Professors (UUP) and Chairman of the American Federation of Teachers’ (AFT) Higher Education Program and Policy Committee, said in the fall of a state faculty association enables SUNY to decrease the size of classes and offers students the courses they need as soon as possible.

“AAUP: Taking Back the Classroom

Does a teacher of nineteenth-century American literature have the right to ask his or her students whether the character of the beloved captain Abbe in Melville’s Moby Dick could be justified by comparing with President Clinton’s? Would someone teaching Aristotelian views on moral virtue be justified in asking students to consider President Bill Clinton’s conduct as a case study?

Many critics of higher education and opponents of academic freedom would answer with a resounding “No!” They want all class discussion to be limited by the course description. The ASC will cover the cost of Friday night’s hotel stay and most meals for attendees (except dinner on Friday night).

If you are interested in attending, contact the state conference.