

NEW YORK Academe

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From the President's Desk:



by David Linton

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

These days we could be forgiven for thinking that when in 1624 John Donne penned the lines that conclude his famous poem, “No Man Is An Island,” he was referring to the tolling of the school bell.

Across the country, from public schools in Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and California

(to name just a few) to colleges and universities that are ruthlessly cutting programs, undermining tenure, raising class sizes, and violating principles of shared governance, we are witnessing relentless attacks on education at every level.

Sadly, the response of some faculty is an “I’m all right, Jack” complacency and denial of just how ugly it has gotten.

While the plight of the public school teachers in Wisconsin has gotten the most press coverage, Governor Walker’s “budget-repair bill” would also eliminate collective bargaining in the state’s public colleges as well. Meanwhile, similar measures have been proposed in Michigan, while a bill in South Carolina calls for faculty to spend more time in the classroom, and there is a proposal in Utah to end tenure. Educators, and that includes those of us teaching at even the most elite institutions, have become the scapegoats to be sacrificed on the altar of tax cuts and anti-public-sector institutions.

In my lifetime I have never seen a greater need for united action and solidarity. We in academe like to talk about the importance of collegiality, of how we constitute a body of scholars dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the open and fair exchange of ideas.

Well, in light of the way the stories of our bloated salaries and abuses of tenure are being spun by those who would destroy our protections and place us at the mercy of whimsical elected officials, it’s time for us to stand up and put our knowledge and persuasive powers to work. There are ample opportunities for action at every level.

Obviously, I think all of us should belong to our respective

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Capitol Hill Day Set for June 9, 2011

The AAUP will once again hold Capitol Hill Day in conjunction with the Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education.

The event will take place on Thursday, June 9, 2011. Participants will be able to take part in advocacy work on the Hill by talking with members of Congress and staff about higher education and issues facing academe.

Please sign up for Capitol Hill Day when you register to attend the annual conference. There is no cost to participate, but your registration allows AAUP to reach you with event details and materials.

Once you have registered, call your senators and representative to set up appointments for June 9. You can find their contact information at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov. The day will end with a reception.

The New York Conference will be setting up appointments for Conference members to meet with members and staff of New York’s Congressional delegation.

If you are interested in being part of the New York Conference’s Capitol Hill Day efforts, contact Tom Policano, Executive Director at tpolicano@nysaaup.org

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Michael Mann to Speak at June 10 Plenary Luncheon

Michael Mann, who was the target of the Virginia Attorney General’s assault on academic freedom will be the featured speaker at the Plenary Luncheon being held at this year’s AAUP Conference on the State of Higher Education. Mann will speak on June 10 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Mann (Pennsylvania State University) is director of the Penn State Earth System Science Center, with faculty appointments in the Departments of Meteorology and Geosciences, and the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute.

Last year Virginia attorney general Ken Cuminole sought records from the University of Virginia related to the communications and research of Professor Mann, a former UVA professor. Among the broad range of records sought were

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AAUP Elects National Council Members and ASC Chair

The American Association of University Professors elected thirteen members to its national Council, the governing body of the Association.

The ten District Council members represent one of ten geographical districts and the three at-large Council members may come from any of the ten districts.

The Council meets twice a year, in June and November, usually in Washington, D.C. to determine Association policy.

In addition, Donna Potts (Kansas State University) has been re-elected as chair of the Assembly of State Conferences (ASC). The ASC is the umbrella organization for individual state AAUP conferences.

Elected as at-large member of the Council were:

Kim Emery, English, University of Florida;

Cecilia Konchar Farr, English and Women's Studies, St. Catherine University and

Jeanette Jeneault, Writing, Syracuse University

The members of the Council elected from Districts are:

Henry Reichman, History, California State University - East Bay (District 1 Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah);

Rachel Roiblat, Social Work, University of Nebraska

Omaha (District 2 Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming);

Allen Zagarell, Anthropology, Western Michigan University (District 3 Michigan); **Dan Murphy**, History, Hanover College (District 4 Arkansas, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia);

Linda Carroll, Italian, Tulane University (District 5 Alabama, Canada, Florida, Foreign, Georgia, Guam, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Virgin Islands, West Virginia);

Rudy Fichtenbaum, Economics, Wright State University (District 6 Ohio);

Bob Boikess, Chemistry, Rutgers University (District 7 New Jersey);

Christopher Moylan, English, New York Institute of Technology (District 8 New York);

Irene Mulvey, Mathematics, Fairfield University (District 9 Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont), and

Charles Baker, French and Film, College of the Holy Cross (District 10 Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island).

AAUP to Investigate SUNY Albany Decision to Eliminate Programs

An AAUP committee will investigate the decision of administrators at SUNY Albany to discontinue four foreign-language degree programs plus the theater arts program in the College of Arts and Sciences at SUNY, Albany and to notify some twenty affected faculty members, fourteen of them with tenure, that their appointments will be terminated within the next two years, once these degree programs have been closed

In a February 15, 2011 letter to SUNY-Albany President George M. Philip, B. Robert Kreiser, AAUP Associate Secretary, wrote that the Association will be pursuing four questions related "to significant issues bearing on academic freedom, tenure and governance:

(1) recognizing the difficult financial conditions facing the entire SUNY system, why Albany is apparently unique among the system's four research universities in taking the drastic step of discontinuing degree programs;

(2) the academic and educational ramifications of a prominent research university to end such programs;

(3) the bases and the methods for reaching the decisions to discontinue the designated programs; and

(4) the adequacy of review procedures to be employed in the cases of affected faculty members who contest the administration's actions.

The members of the Investigating Committee are Matthew W. Finkin (Law) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who will serve as the Chair; Joan DelFattore (English and Legal Studies) of the University of Delaware, and Diane C. Zannoni (Economics) of Trinity College.

In October, the University announced that it would be ending all admissions to the programs in French, Italian, Russian and the classics, leaving Spanish as the only language that would be offered after the current students graduate. Theatre will also be eliminated.

Ten tenured faculty were informed that they would be terminated in two years, after all current students have graduated.

More than two dozen probationary and contingent faculty members will also lose their positions if the University goes through with its plan.

Boston's Suffolk University to Host 2011 Summer Institute

The 2011 Summer Institute will be held July 21–24 on the campus of Suffolk University in Boston, MA. The 2011 Summer Institute provides the opportunity for AAUP members to broaden their learning experience.

During the four days, AAUP members will have the chance to network and brainstorm with fellow higher education colleagues from across the nation while sharpening their leadership and team building skills. Attendees will attend seminars and workshops on various topics related to the academic world.

The seminars and workshops planned for the Institute include a History of the AAUP; Legal Round-Up: Top Cases Affecting Higher Education Today; Government Relations Update: From Capitol Hill to Campus; Crash Course in Institutional Financial Analysis; Negotiations 101; Contract and Grievance Administration; Higher Education Data and Research; Faculty Advocacy: Understanding and Strengthening Faculty Handbooks; Strength Training for State Conferences; Professing Solidarity: Is There a Role for Faculty and the Graduate-Student Labor Movement?; Toolkit for Dismantling Anti-faculty, Anti-Higher Ed. Legislative Efforts; Bridging the Gap between Tenure and Non-Tenure Track Faculty; Maintaining Compliance – DOL and IRS CB Regulations; Government Relations: The Nuts and Bolts of Lobbying; Organizing 101: Building a Strong Chapter ; Social Media as an Organizing Tool; Developing Shared Governance: Increasing Faculty Participation in Academic Decision-Making; African American Faculty, Academic Freedom, and Union Organizing; Winning By Design—Creating Effective Contract Campaigns; Effective Faculty Governance: Action-Oriented Meetings and Parliamentary Procedure; Practical Information for Building, Strengthening and Maintaining an Effective Advocacy Chapter; Can You Hear Us

Now?: Earned Media and Other Communications Strategies; Team Building: From Organizing to Bargaining Teams and Beyond, and Committee A Procedures—A Primer for Chapters and Conferences.

The Institute registration fee includes three nights' lodging in one of the university dorms. Each attendee will be assigned a room by the university. You may share a suite (several bedrooms with a bathroom and common area), but each attendee will have his or her own room. Each bedroom is furnished with a loft bed, desk, and dresser. Each suite will be gender-specific (only same-sex attendees in a suite). The gender question on the registration site is used for assigning rooms. Beds include bed pad, pillow, pillowcase, sheets, and a blanket. One towel, washcloth, bar of soap, and cup will be provided to each participant.

As an alternative, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Omni Parker House Hotel, located at 60 School Street, Boston, MA. You may make reservations by calling 1-800-THE-OMNI. Check-in time is 3:00pm and check-out time is noon. Reservations may also be made online. When making your reservation, identify yourself as a member of the American Association of University Professors and ask for the group rate of \$179 per night (plus 14.45% state and local taxes, fees, and assessments. You may guarantee your reservation with a credit card or by paying for the first night. The deadline for group rate reservations is Monday, June 20, 2011. Failure to arrive on your scheduled arrival date will be considered a "No Show" and you will be charged one night's room and tax if you do not contact the hotel. Remember to reference the group and meeting name (AAUP July Group) when making your reservation to get the conference rate.

For more information, or to register, check the AAUP website: www.aaup.org.

Association of State Conferences Holds New Leaders Training Workshop at Stetson University

The Association of State Conferences (ASC) held another "New Leaders Training Workshop." This workshop, which was held April 23, 2011, at Stetson University, which is located in DeLand, Florida.

More than 50 participants from Florida and Georgia schools attended. Workshop sessions included "Seven Myths about Academic Freedom and Tenure," "Faculty Handbooks and Shared Governance," "Chapter Building," "Building a State Conference," "and Where's the Money Being Spent?," Cary Nelson, AAUP President, spoke at lunch about "Higher Education in Hard Times" Nelson suggested that with a nationwide recession, faculty members can "save higher education as we know it, both by reforming the campus itself and through more strategic public outreach."

Stetson has been the scene of a successful organizing drive, where more than 30 percent of the faculty have joined the new advocacy chapter. The administration has, in recent years, consistently ignored the faculty and made significant decisions about the future direction of the institution without involving the faculty. Another development out of the workshop is the proposed revival of the Florida state conference.

Another New Leaders Training Workshop is being planned for Texas in the fall.

New York State AAUP Executive Director's Report

By Tom Policano

The NYS Conference of AAUP conducted elections for all positions to the NYS Conference Administrative Committee and all Members at Large. This year for the first time as a result of our revised NYSC Constitution those elections allowed all members to vote without need to attend our Spring Conference. The two Members at Large positions from last year were elected under Department of Labor supervision. The remaining positions were elected as part of the National AAUP election process.

The National AAUP sent out the TrueBallot electronic voting notification on March 9th, 2011 for these positions. Ballots had to be received by April 15th, 2011. Elections have been completed and the results posted on our site and on the National AAUP site.

Congratulations to our newly elected NYSC Administrative Committee and AAUP ASC Delegates 2011 listed below! Also special congratulations to Jeanette Jeneault for her election as AAUP Council At-Large Member! I look forward to serving you all in the coming year!

David Linton - NYSC President and AAUP ASC Delegate 2011 (1 yr)

Jeanette Jeneault - NYSC Vice President, AAUP ASC Delegate 2011 (1 yr) and AAUP Council At-Large Member

Pat Cihon - NYSC Treasurer (2 yr)

Cecelia McCall - NYSC Secretary (2 yr)

Fred Brodzinski - NYSC At-Large Member (1 yr)

Dennis Massocco - NYSC At Large Member and AAUP ASC Delegate 2011 (2 yr)

John Polimeni - NYSC At Large Member (1 yr)

Suzanne Wagner - NYSC At Large Member and AAUP ASC Delegate 2011 (2 yr)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the National AAUP, the Assembly of State Conferences, and the Texas AAUP Conference for their financial contributions and support to us in the last months as we have sought to defend our core belief that the NY State Conference is a professional organization and not a union by subordination.

The National AAUP has been especially generous and helpful in assisting the NYSC reach and agree-

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UUP: The Cuomo Budget Plan Shortchanges SUNY, Students

United University Professions (UUP) President Phil Smith described the budget passed by the State Legislature as "shortchanging" SUNY.

In discussing the budget plan, Smith said that "We are thankful the 2011-2012 state budget restores some \$60 million in state support to SUNY's three teaching hospitals in Brooklyn, Stony Brook and Syracuse, but we are also disappointed that the already financially-stressed hospitals will be losing about \$90 million in state support. These institutions will be hard-pressed to continue to serve uninsured and underinsured patients and provide medical education for the students who will meet the health care needs of New Yorkers in the future.

Smith noted that "This budget shortchanges SUNY by cutting its operating budget by \$100 million. That brings the total budget cuts to SUNY's state-operated campuses to nearly \$700 million over the past two and a half years, or one-third of SUNY's operating budget.

The UUP President asserted that "Slashing SUNY so deeply means more cancelled classes, fewer course offerings and more students and families forced to pay for an extra year or more of college at a time when they can least afford it.

Smith urged lawmakers to extend the "Millionaires tax," which is scheduled to expire at the end of the year, and to use some of the additional funds to restore some of the funds slashed from the SUNY budget.

RPI Administration Violated Academic Good Practice

In a report published in February, an AAUP investigating committee finds that, in suspending the faculty senate and refusing to grant governance rights to contingent faculty, the administration of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute "contravened basic principles of shared academic governance."

In the summer of 2007 the governing board and administration of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute suspended the faculty senate after senate leaders rejected the board's demand that they amend the senate constitution to exclude non-tenure-line faculty from the senate's constituency and membership. Most faculty in full-time non-tenure-line appointments had previously been included; around the country, non-tenure-track faculty (also called "contingent faculty") are now the vast majority of faculty.

In place of the senate and its representative faculty bodies, the administration created its own "transitional" structure of faculty

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The Upside of the Recent Attacks on Public Education Unions in Wisconsin and Ohio:

Or How Inflatable Palm Trees, Tractors, Skewed Media Coverage, PACs, and Special Interest Groups Have Reinvigorated Collective Bargaining in the United States.

by *Jeanette Jeneault*

Once upon a time in the United States of America, it felt like collective bargaining and higher education in general as we knew it was slipping away into what many in the middle class might have looked back on as the good old days.

Who knew that what is happening in Wisconsin, Ohio, in New York State and other states as well, would do more for unions than for those behind these draconian measures?

Since the Wisconsin backlash protests began back in February massive numbers of protestors have been flooding the area inside and outside the Capitol building in Wisconsin from 91 year old grandmothers to infants in baby strollers to firefighters and farmers on tractors.

Nancy McMahon from Madison Area Technical College asked, "What I want to know is where is the national media on this? Even the local media has been relatively silent." Instead the airwaves have been filled with pro Scott Walker and anti-union commercials funded by the Koch brothers through their connections to many political action committees.

Meanwhile on Fox New's Bill O'Reilly Show some footage in the background showing angry counter protestors included palm trees and was actually from Sacramento, California. (O'Reilly later claimed the mix-up of screen captions, footage, and his own voice was due to a delay in changing footage, an unintended technical snafu.)

Not to be outdone Wisconsin protestors began showing up with the inflatable kind of palm trees adorned with signs sporting such sayings as "Foxed Up Brains Elected Walker." McMahon remarked, "I'm pretty sure palm trees don't grow in Wisconsin."

What do the Koch brothers have to do with this? Plenty it would seem according to Democracy Now's Lisa Graves who reports they donated over five million to Walker's campaign ads that did not once mention doing away with public unions in the state.

Meanwhile Graves said Koch Industries leased a building across the street from the Madison Capitol building presumably as a lobbying shop that has been buying up airtime recently, mostly under the PAC Prosperity for America, and all the state unions can say really is: Thank you for keeping everyone aware, and the protestors pouring into Madison.

Support has been widespread including donations from around the USA and the globe in the form of pizza to keep people from being hungry, many of whom spent long hours in the frigid temperatures. In the meantime Walker and his allies arrived and left through tunnels, and hired security screeners for the Capitol building itself according to McMahon who claimed that the local police and county sheriff department refused to take on any task except some crowd control on the fringes, and many off

the clock have been joining the protestors. They are also public union members.

With all this action one would imagine a scene strewn with pizza boxes, abandoned signs, and even gum wrappers. According to Pete Ludden a Syracuse Regional Labor Relations representative for NYSUT who was in Wisconsin for a few days to join the protestors, everyone made sure to pick everything up as the numbers dwindled at night, after surging around noon and after 5PM.

While there were representatives from unions outside of Wisconsin, Ludden claims in terms of overall numbers they were not significant, but he was proud to be a part of what was happening there.

"The chanting, in a constant parade, outdoor and inside rallies packing the rotunda, and a microphone set up, a bullhorn, and anyone could make a speech, say what was on their mind, and the 1000s of signs," amazed Ludden. Like McMahon, he was impressed by the Teaching Assistants from around the area and state that camped out 24/7 for the first two weeks; it is after all about their future.

However, the Wisconsin bill passed the final hurdle, the Senate, after the Republican majority stripped it from the budget bill. (As long as it stayed attached to the budget bill, the 14 senators who left the state could keep the vote from coming up.) March 11 Walker signed it into law, one day before the biggest protest yet.

That is right, the signing was not the final salvo. McMahon emphasized this with an explanation of the ability to recall any elected state official in her state with enough petition signatures, and how the signature drives had already started even before they were 100% certain of the outcome. "They were simply wrong about how many people would be willing to join us in this fight," McMahon continued, "They thought they could convince the taxpayers that the money we are paid is still public money, but how long does it remain public money, and not our money?"

She pointed out that much disinformation was being put out there, but as she aptly pointed out the people of Wisconsin are smarter than that. A recall would mean a new election at latest in August.

Meanwhile in Ohio the infamous Senate Bill 5 in its most recent form is set to take away the bargaining rights of most if not all tenure and tenure-track public university faculty across the state using language proposed by Ohio Inter-University Council's leader Bruce Johnson and supported by the group that represents the interests of 14 higher education institutions in the state. Johnson's language echoes the 1980 *Yeshiva vs. NLRB* case that claimed faculty are management if they participate in university governance, curriculum development, serve on hiring committees and the like.

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NYS AAUP Executive Director's Report

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ment with the US Department of Labor regarding our election practices.

Our NYS AAUP Conference Spring 2011 was held April 15-16 at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY. I would like to thank St Francis for their hospitality and share a special thanks to Professor Peter Gomori for his leadership in making all the arrangements.

At the conference we discussed further constitutional amendments and additions. The Constitution Task Force was asked to consider the suggestions made and to continue their work for another year. Any proposed changes the committee recommends will be shared with members for feedback before bringing the changes to a vote of the membership next year.

Please forward any suggestions you may already have to me to share with the committee.

The NYSC Constitution is posted online at: http://nysaaup.org/library/nysaaup_constitution.htm

The NYS AAUP Conference Spring 2011 keynote speaker was Steve London who is the first vice president of the Professional Staff Congress at CUNY and associate professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College. Steve presented a reasoned analysis of state politics surrounding the education issues we face today.

Those issues enter on the privatization of the state education system. Steve outlined how the conservative austerity strategy has largely succeeded.

The unions have been divided and are allowing the governor's austerity budget to succeed in order to win short-term concessions for their members. The unions have behaved like special interest groups. Essentially they have abandoned the principles of an affordable education for all and in the end our students. He ended his presentation by noting the critical need for our leaders to regroup and move to reopen the recently passed state austerity budget. The discussion following Steve's presentation was lively.

The open forums were lively and informative. During the forum it was shared that there is an alarming movement to require a fee based portfolio evaluation for teachers in order to complete their Master's in Education and outsource it to Pearson Education!

Pearson Education is a private corporation that sees itself as the global leader in educational publishing of quality content, assessment tools and educational resources.

Since the last conference meeting we have been in closer contact with the UUP. A meeting was held in Buffalo to discuss additional opportunities for cooperation. We are pleased to have two new state committees, the Committee on Academic Professionals and the Committee on Faculty Holding Contingent Appointment.

These committees will help maintain UUP and AAUP communications. A new membership agreement has been

agreed upon that will address several major issues. We are pleased to report that the UUP after careful review has voted to maintain their AAUP affiliation.

At our NYS AAUP Conference Fall 2010 the following motion in support of our colleagues at SUNY/Albany over the precipitous suspension of programs was approved:

Motion that The New York State Conference of The AAUP expresses alarm at the precipitous suspension of programs at SUNY/Albany and urges the Albany administration to rescind its decision and enter into negotiations with appropriate faculty bodies on more appropriate ways to address budgetary matters and further directs the president and the executive director to promulgate this position carried.

Since then the National AAUP has been formally addressing this matter.

There has, however, been criticism of the lack of coordination by AAUP with UUP and other involved campus groups during their investigation.

We expect there will be a full report on this matter at the AAUP Annual Meeting. We hope a fairer and more equitable solution will result.

The NYS Conference Fall 2011 will be held in western New York at Niagara University October 14-15.

Please plan to attend and look for further details on the NYSC site (nysaaup.org).

Save The Date • Oct 14 to 15

New York State AAUP Fall Meeting

October 14-15, 2011 • Niagara University

For more information, see the conference website: www.nysaaup.org

RPI Violated Academic Good Practice

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governance. After several joint administration-faculty efforts failed to resolve the impasse and after the RPI administration rejected the AAUP's offer of a mediator, the Association authorized an investigation. Investigations are carried out by AAUP members with no previous connection to the case.

The investigation found that RPI administrators violated standards set forth in the AAUP's Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities and widely accepted by colleges and universities around the country.

The administration and board failed to provide the faculty with compelling reasons for suspending the faculty senate.

They stripped contingent faculty of governance participation rights. And they imposed an alternative governance structure that lacks the essential characteristics of academic

shared governance as widely understood in American higher education.

"In many respects, the committee system overseen and administered by the RPI senate represented an exemplary instance of faculty governance. From promotion and tenure to grievance procedures, the senate guaranteed an authoritative voice for the faculty in its areas of concern and expertise," says Cary Nelson, AAUP president. "The loss of the senate brought those governance traditions to an end."

Both the RPI administration and campus AAUP leadership, however, have expressed hope that the current efforts to restore the faculty role in governance will bear fruit.

The report and other resources on governance are available on the AAUP's Web site; <http://www.aaup.org>.

Recent Attacks on Public Education

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Fichtenbaum's (AAUP-Ohio Conference) testimony on SB 5 to the Senate Insurance, Commerce, and Labor Committee,

"The changes in our labor market mean that our colleges and universities are increasingly important to Ohio's economy. We train the workers and citizens of the future and we generate many discoveries that drive economic growth. In short, (we) create the high paying middle class jobs of the future..." In reality faculty in Ohio according to Fichtenbaum are paid significantly less than their counterparts in other states, making it clear that a bill that claims to save money may actually do harm to the state's overall economy.

So what does this have to do with New York? Plenty. We are facing cuts once again in SUNY/CUNY, a proposed 10 percent cut, this after three years of other drastic cuts. The proposed budget will also eliminate \$154 million dollars subsidizing teaching hospitals. K-12 is looking at a potential \$1.5 billion cut. That combined with potential federal educational cuts, the situation appears dire, and perhaps too convenient.

No longer can we see these acts as isolated. The foundation of higher education in America remains under immoral, well funded, organized, and anti-democratic attacks.

Cutting of humanities programs most recently at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas reveals just another part of the bigger picture in US higher education in 2011. After all, humanities classes often teach radical ideas such as social justice, and encourage open dialogue, and independent thinking.

Where we are heading appears to be corporate-like universities where management controls curriculum and even modes of instruction, leaving the surviving "programs" little more than vocationally directed education, fast, cheap, and shallow. Humanities teach us to learn, think, profess, and create beliefs, values, and moral systems. We as faculty are more than money machines (giving more than we take), what we do as faculty has a value that is beyond mere price.

As if we needed another reason to stand up for tenure, and re-expanding those who may obtain it—Tenure remains the only true source of what academic freedom and "say" we have left. All

faculty need to work together contingent or not to create and in some cases recreate a stable American academy and collective bargaining helps us to be heard.

We need collective action, now, and relentlessly to fight our way back. The wonderful thing about these interesting times is now we have help. What these governors have done is awakened a sleeping giant, the great majority of Americans who cannot buy votes, but care about the future of their children—feeding, housing, and educating them. We are the people who work. We are Wisconsin.

Addendum: Since writing this story, there have been many positive developments in terms of pushing back in both Wisconsin and Ohio. In Wisconsin it was announced in the third week of April that four more institutions of higher learning voted resoundingly to unionize. Recall signatures, investigations of voter fraud, and more are now a part of the continuing energy on the Wisconsin labor front.

In Ohio the language for the November ballot initiative to repeal Senate Bill 5 has been approved and petition drives are ongoing. In a phone interview with Richelle O'Connor from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio she noted that Ohio's governor Kasich has the lowest approval rating in the country of any governor, and this has been largely fueled by his part in the passage of SB 5. O'Connor noted that the bill has provided for much needed solidarity across unionized groups in Ohio from higher education to police officers to even her education students. One reportedly said to her that he was "ashamed to be a Republican."

Currently Wright State faculty are negotiating their next labor agreement, and when the university suggested they should negotiate only a one-year contract as opposed to the three-year contract they had expected to be working on, the union's team walked away from the table. Since then O'Connor reports the university has backed off that idea and has resumed negotiating the three-year contract. When talking about union messages in her inbox she remarked "I usually glossed over them quickly, but now I read every word."

From the NYS AAUP President's Desk:

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tive professional advocacy organizations, whether it be the AAUP, the AFT or the NEA. These groups are our bulwarks against capricious laws and lawmakers.

At the local level we should push our Faculty Council, Faculty Senate or whatever body represents our interests to stand against administrative overreaching and presumptuousness.

It is so easy for faculty leaders to be co-opted by Provosts, Deans and Chairs that we need to see to it that our representatives are regularly reminded that their primary responsibility is to look out for our collective best interests.

So, I'd like to propose an exercise. Give a nice, slow read of John Donne's poem reprinted below and as you do so, replace the references to "man" with the word "professor." And, when you get to "continent," "Europe," and other place names, insert "academe," "university" or "college" (whichever scans nicely for you). And after you've finished reading, write a letter to your legislators, join your colleagues on the picket lines,

organize your fellow faculty members.

We are not alone unless we choose to be.

For Whom the Bell Tolls

No man is an island,

Entire of itself.

Each is a piece of the continent,

A part of the main.

If a clod be washed away by the sea,

Europe is the less.

As well as if a promontory were.

As well as if a manner of thine own

Or of thine friend's were.

Each man's death diminishes me,

For I am involved in mankind.

Therefore, send not to know

For whom the bell tolls,

It tolls for thee.

Capitol Hill Day Set for June 9, 2011

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Preliminary Capitol Hill Day schedule:

Wednesday, June 8

7:00–8:00 p.m. Orientation Session—drop in at your convenience to pick up briefing materials and ask questions.

Thursday, June 9

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Orientation Session—drop in at your convenience to pick up briefing materials and ask questions.

10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Lobbying Visits—remember to make an appointment ahead of time.

4:30–6:00 p.m. Reception on Capitol Hill—join us for drinks, snacks, and conversation.

Michael Mann to Speak at June 10 Plenary Luncheon

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emails that Mann sent to and received from colleagues since 1999.

The AAUP, ACLU of Virginia, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression joined forces to file an amicus brief in support of UVA's request that the court set aside Cuccinelli's demand. In a victory for academic freedom, the judge dismissed the attorney general's subpoena.

Cuccinelli, however, continues his harassment of Professor Mann. In its most strongly-worded court filing to date, UVA has characterized Cuccinelli's investigation as "an unprecedented and improper governmental intrusion into ongoing scientific research" and has said that Cuccinelli is targeting Mann because he "disagrees with his academic research regarding climate change."

For more information about this year's Conference, see the AAUP website: www.aau.org.

New York State AAUP Fall Meeting
October 14-15, 2011
Niagara University