The AAUP Nominating Committee has announced that it received the following nominations for the 2012 national election:

**President:**
- Rudy Fichtenbaum (Wright State University)
- Irene Mulvey (Fairfield University)

**First Vice President:**
- Hank Reichman (California State University-East Bay)
- Wendy Rosworth (Rhode Island)

**Second Vice President:**
- Christopher Moylan (New York Institute of Technology)
- Susan Michalczuk (Boston College)
- Craig Vasay (Mary Washington)
- Don Eron (University of Colorado-Boulder)

**Secretary-Treasurer:**
- Michele Ganon (Western Connecticut State University)
- Cecilia Konchar Farr (St. Catherine)

**AAUP National Council District 8 (New York State):**
- Marie Monica (New York University School of Medicine)
- Stephen Goldberg (Adelphi University)
- Sally Dear-Healey (Syracuse University)
- Anne Friedman (Borough of Manhattan Community College/PSC)

**AAUP National Council At-Large (3 positions):**
- Joerg Tiede (Illinois Wesleyan)
- Brian Turner (Randolph-Macon)
- Rana Jaleel (New York University)
- Richard Gomes (Rutgers University)
- Heinrich Geissner (Iowa State University)
- Mayra Besosa (California State University-San Marcos)
- Louis Kirshenbaum (Rhode Island)
- June Hikel (Central Connecticut State University)

In its fall meeting, the New York State Conference of the AAUP made changes to the proposed new constitution for the Conference. The proposed constitution (including changes from the October proposal) can be viewed on the state conference website:


The document will be considered at the spring meeting. Additional details will be available on the conference website:
http://nysaaup.org., and in the next issue of New York Academe.
The DANGERS OF A SPORTS EMPIRE

In the light of events at Penn State, the AAUP’s National Council issued, on November 29, 2011, the following statement to remind people of the long-term structural problems that helped make that tragedy possible:

Recent accounts of the systemic cover-up of allegations of sexual assaults on young boys at Penn State indicate that the unchecked growth of a sports empire held unaccountable to the rest of the university community coincided with the steady erosion of faculty governance. “Genuine shared governance, which involves meaningful participation by the faculty in all aspects of an institution, could have resulted in these alleged crimes being reported to city and state police years ago, and might have spared some of the victims the trauma they endured, and indeed continue to endure, because of the memories that remain, and the legal and judicial processes they still face.”

The National Council of the American Association of University Professors joins with Penn State faculty member Michael Biruké in calling on the Penn State administration “to begin treating faculty members, and their elected representatives on the Faculty Senate, as equal partners in the institution” (“At Penn State, A Bitter Reckoning.” New York Times, November 17, 2011). At Penn State, and indeed at other institutions across the nation where athletics programs have burgeoned outside of faculty governance structures, the potential for rampant abuse of power remains.

The AAUP’s 1989 report “The Role of the Faculty in the Governance of College Athletics” recognizes the potential for athletics programs that are independent of the rest of the institution to be egregious examples of misplaced priorities that divert resources from the core academic mission of a university. The report states that, “the time has come to recognize that intercollegiate athletics poses a major governance problem for American colleges and universities.”

The AAUP’s Council, in the earnest hope of preventing abuses of power, suffering of victims, and betrayals of trust, reaffirms the necessity of ensuring meaningful faculty participation in all aspects of institutional governance and, in particular, athletic programs.

The National Council of the American Association of University Professors

Candidate Bio

John M. Polimeni

John M. Polimeni is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He received a Ph.D. in Ecological Economics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a M.S. in Financial Economics with a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Regulatory Economics from SUNY at Albany, and a B.S. in Mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

In addition, he has been a Senior Fullbright Fellow and is a Honorary Member of the Scientific Council of the Romanian National Academy of Science: National Institute for Economic Research, Institute of Economic Forecasting. He has published more than 40 academic journal articles, nine book chapters, and 6. Finally, and most tellingly, “Resolutions of the Senate shall reflect the wishes of the Faculty, and are intend- ed to be implemented” has been altered to “Resolutions of the Senate shall reflect the wishes of the Faculty.”

Thus, the situation at RPI has become a “glass half-empty vs. glass half-full” dilemma. Is it better to reestablish a Faculty Senate, even though its contribu- tion to shared governance has almost completely disappeared, or is it better to protest the reduction or loss of faculty involvement in the critical functions of the academic community? Does the new constitution meet AAUP standards of shared governance or should RPI continue on the sanction list?

At this time, I have no answers, only more questions.

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The AAUP Executive Committee and the standing council in the upcoming AAUP election have been concerned with faculty issues in Higher Education from the problem. The NYS AAUP is the only State organization significant change in leadership and that motivate the faculty to address these issues in a meaningful and timely manner.

Kathryn Regan Eskew

Candidate Bio
By a unanimous vote, the executive council of the New York State Conference of the AAUP voted at its fall meeting to endorse the Occupy Wall Street movement as one fully endorsed by the NYSC site and conference meetings and in regular communication with representatives and the executive director. The NYS AAUP Chapter has been very helpful in the formation of a new chapter at Hilbert College and I would like to continue to strengthen ties between the conference and all chapters.

Other priorities for the conference should be the continuing dialogue with UUP and NYS-AAUP about our ongoing relationship. Each group has specific concerns and issues. Our mutual interests should help us solidify this relationship that has such an impact on higher education in New York. One important abuse of this power among the one per cent has been the systematic, national-scale assault on society, benefits, pensions, labor rights, academic freedom and freedom of expression among educators at all levels. The NYSC follows the lead of the national AAUP and other labor organizations in applauding Occupy Wall Street for defending the rights of workers and demanding social protec- tions for the unemployed. Moreover, faculty share with students nationwide a growing concern with rising tuition rates, increasing college loan obligations and declining state and federal support for financial aid.

Professors from CUNY, New York University, Columbia, The New School, New York Institute of Technology and many others have marched with Occupy Wall Street in recent days and will continue to offer support as the movement grows. The AAUP recognizes the diversity of opinions among faculty on the Occupy Wall Street movement and welcomes frank discussion of the aims and activities of the movement.

Further topics discussed at conference included increasing AAUP membership and the status of tenure in NYS Institutions. In this regard please note that the NYSC is available to help your campus organize or rejuvenate a chapter. If you would like help please contact us. We also will be contacting you for input on the employment practices at your Institute.

Several NYSC leaders will be candidates in the upcoming AAUP National Council Elections. Currently, those I am aware of who are involved in the nominations process include: Stephen Goldberg (Adelphi University), Phillippe Abrahams (UUP), and Anne Friedman (CUNY BMCC). Please consider supporting all the NYSC members running for council in the upcoming AAUP election this spring.

The NYSC Conference Spring 2012 will be held in the New York City area May 4-5th, 2012. Please plan to attend and look for further notice of the NYSC site (nyssaup.org).
New York State AAUP Executive Director’s Report

By Tom Policano

The NYSC Conference of AAUP is conducting elections for President, Vice President and two Members at Large. Those elected will also represent the NYSC at the AAUP Annual Meetings as Assembly of State Conferences Delegates. The bios and position statements by the candidates are found elsewhere in this newsletter. Elections will be again a part of the National AAUP elections and all NYSS AAUP members will be invited to vote. The state conference will also be asking our members to ratify the changes. The modified NYSC Constitution is on line at: http://nysaaup.org/library/nysaaaup_constitu_ amended_111015.pdf

Several NYSS members are also running for AAUP Council positions and we urge you to give them your support.

Our NYSS AAUP Conference Fall 2011 was held October 14-15 at Niagara University. I would like to thank NU for their hospitality and share a special thanks to Suzanne Wagner and Abigal Levin for their leadership in making the arrangements.

At the conference we discussed constitutional amendments and additions. The Constitution Task Force proposed more improvements that take advantage of the changes the AAUP allowed greater participation of the membership in the business of the conference. The Steering Committee and members attending the conference ratified the changes. A further motion was passed to ask the NYSS AAUP membership as a whole for their opinion on the changed Constitution. This will be done as part of the spring NYSC and AAUP elections.

The work of the Drake Group (thedrakegroup.org) was presented and a formal motion was passed in support of the mission statement of this group.

The mission of the The Drake Group is to help faculty and staff defend academic integrity in the face of the burgeoning college sport industry.

The NYSS will seek ways to cooperate with this effort.

Our conference guest and keynote speaker was Howard Bumis, AAUP Secretary-Treasurer (2012) and Collective Bargaining Conference Chair (2013) Eastern Michigan University. Howard inspired a very active forum discussion about ways that the National and New York State AAUP can work better together. The NYSS secretary, Cecilia McCall summarized Howard’s presentation when she wrote in the minutes: Howard addressed many on-

New Constitution To Be Voted On At Spring Meeting

The proposed constitution (including changes from the October proposal) can be viewed on the state conference website: http://nysaaup.org/library/nysaaaup_constitution_amended_111015.pdf

United University Professions, the union that represents academic and professional faculty at the State University of New York, filed suit on December 28, 2011, in federal district court in Albany against the state of New York over its proposed health insurance rate increase affecting UUP’s nearly 4,000 retired members.

An extra two percent increase in the contribution retirees pay toward their health insurance premium was unilaterally imposed by the state in October. Retirees, who had been paying 10 percent of the cost of their health insurance premiums for individual coverage and a 25 percent share on family plans, were surprised to learn their premiums would be larger than expected.

“The state’s action to unilaterally raise the level of contributions retirees pay for their health insurance is unconstitutional, arbitrary and capricious, and amounts to a breach of our contract,” UUP President Phil Smith said. “It’s totally wrong to saddle our retirees who are on fixed incomes with this unexpected increase in their health insurance costs.”

The lawsuit charges the higher health insurance rates are unconstitutional because the state’s action violates a federal law banning states from imposing policies that deprive their enrollees, who are our friends, neighbors and relatives, had no choice in this decision and did nothing to deserve this unwarranted breach of contract and that the action was arbitrary and capricious, since it extended a change intended for retirees not covered by a union contract. UUP’s retirees have contractual protection.

UUP’s suit asks the court to rescind the state’s increase in the contributions retirees pay toward their health insurance. The legal action includes the governor, the state Department of Civil Service and NYSHIP.

“Those individuals served the public with distinction for years, only to be ambushed by such an increase,” Smith said. “These retirees, who are our friends, neighbors and relatives, had no choice in this decision and did nothing to deserve this unwarranted attack on their financial well-being.”

The added two percent contribution the state ordered retirees to pay comes on top of premium rate increases annually imposed by health insurance carriers.

Grad Labor Counts Campaign Conference

On December 6, 2001, The AAUP Executive Committee and the standing Committee on Graduate and Professional Students called upon the Obama administration and every remaining member of the NLRB to reverse the board’s 2004 decision to withdraw the right of graduate student employees at private universities to choose unionization through a democratic vote.

The joint statement said that “We deplore the seven years the graduate student campuses employ policies that universities have waited for the approval of what the United Nations regards as a basic human right—the right of any employee group to choose collective bargaining.”

The 2004 decision of the NLRB stands as an exceptionally undemocratic denial of employees’ rights to have a voice in their future and working conditions. This denial is particularly egregious in the case of graduate student employees, as they face no new labor policies that prevent their salaries, benefits, and working conditions. Unlike many faculty, they cannot address these issues through any shared governance structure—they do not have a document comparable to a faculty handbook.

The joint statement conclude that “An NLRB ruling to reverse the 2004 decision is all the more important now, at a moment when political leaders and their constituents from across the country agree that quality higher education will be a crucial component of any national economic recovery. Voters have recognized that giving academic employees a continued on page 6

AUP Sues State, Seeks Health Insurance Hike Reversal

The AUUP’s Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education (including the Ninety-eighth Annual Meeting of the AUUP) will take place June 13-17, 2012 at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The highlight of the Annual Conference is the Commission for Higher Education Education will be three days of present-

The tenth annual Conference of Contingent Academic Labor (COCAL) Conference will be held in Mexico City, on the campus of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) from Friday, August 10 through Sunday, August 12, 2012.

The host for COCAL X is the Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (STU- NAM). Contingent faculty activists and representatives from private and public universities will participate in the conference. Presentations and plenaries will be translated into English, French, and Spanish.

Tentative themes for the conference are: changes in academic work in the context of neoliberal globalization; organiza-

More information can be found on COCAL’s website: http://cocalinternational.org/events.html.

The COCAL X Conference members can contact the AAUP website: www.aau.org.

Other events include a Friday afternoon state lobbying networking meeting (for AUUP members only); a and a Friday night reception for all attendees.

Capitol Hill Day, the AUUP’s annual grassroots lobbying event, provides you an opportunity to advocate for higher education. AUUP members visit their senators and representatives and speak up about the issues that matter most to academia. We supply briefing materials and everything else you need to prepare and present your message persuasively. The day concludes with a congressional reception on Capitol Hill. New York State Conference members can contact Executive Director Tom Policano to join New York’s lobbying effort.

Featured speakers include Gamelyn Oduardo Sierra, a recent graduate of the University of Puerto Rico Law School, who will share his experiences as a student organizer in the University of Puerto Rico.

In addition, the conference includes meetings of the AUUP Executive Council, AAUP’s Collective Bargaining Congress, and the Assembly of State Conferences. The Annual Meeting plenary (Saturday, June 16) will consider important business items such as investigations of alleged violations of academic freedom.

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The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) was founded in 1551. It is the biggest university in Mexico and one of the oldest.

There are many cultural sites nearby, including the Ciudad Universitaria facilities (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the Chapultepec Castle (former residence of Maximilian of Habsburg and Charlotte) and the National Museum of Anthropology.

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