Campus Carry Violates Academic Freedom
continued from page 2
The AAUP joined the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence and the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence in an amicus brief supporting the challenge. They argue that college campuses are marketplaces of ideas, and that the presence of weapons has a chilling effect on rigorous academic exchange of ideas. Students and faculty members will not be comfortable discussing controversial subjects if they think there might be a gun in the classroom.

The brief argues that the policy (and the law pursuant to which the policy was created) requiring that handguns be permitted in classrooms harms faculty members as it deprives them of a core academic decision and chills their First Amendment right to academic freedom. The brief cites decades of social science research supporting these apprehensions.

The brief argues that the “decision whether to permit or exclude handguns in a given classroom is, at bottom, a decision about educational policy and pedagogical strategy. It predictably affects not only the choice of course materials, but how a particular professor can and should interact with her students—how far she should press a student or a class to wrestle with unsettling ideas, how trenchantly and forthrightly she can evaluate student work, Permitting handguns in the classroom also affects the extent to which faculty can or should prompt students to challenge each other.

The law and policy thus implicate concerns at the very core of academic freedom: They compel faculty to alter their pedagogical choices, deprive them of the decision to exclude guns from their classrooms, and censor their protected speech.”

The full brief can be found at: https://www.canvas.org/file/GlassBrief.pdf.

Congress: Consider the Consequences
continued from page 2
repayment options, efforts to better align competency-based education programs with the Title IV aid programs, and establishing accountability measures at the programmatic level merit, according to the signatories, careful exploration. However, the concern of the AAUP and the other organizations is that, given the extended schedule for considering the legislation, it will be “impossible to provide fully informed feedback on any of these points.”

Given that the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act is years overdue, the signatories question the speed at which the bill is being rushed through the Committee. The signatories observe that, “This expedited timeframe limits the ability to analyze the bill and consult with affected parties, leaving the committee in the position of asking its members and the public to support legislation before knowing its full impact. We urge you to delay marking up the bill to allow for more input.”

Offering a brief analysis of the legislation, the signatories observe that “this bill is worse for students.” It would require students to borrow more, pay more to borrow and pay still more to repay their loans. The bill eliminates the in-school interest subsidy for undergraduate students, eliminates grants to students made through the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program, eliminates loan forgiveness and other benefits currently available in the student loan programs.

These proposals will have a meaningful impact on the affordability of college for low-income students. In addition, provisions freezing authorization while expanding the number of institutions (many of which are for-profit institutions, where the greatest abuses of federal programs has occurred) will undermine the effectiveness of federal programs supporting higher education.

The signatories concluded their letter to Congress: “While we appreciate the effort that went into preparing this bill, we urge you to reconsider the approach it represents. We believe this bill falls short of even current law, and its impact on students and federal policy would prove to be seriously damaging. More than a missed opportunity, this bill is a step backward that would further undermine access and quality at a time when the nation needs more of both.”

The full text of the letter can be found at: https://www.canvas.org/sites/default/files/hr4508-letter.pdf.
Higher Ed Groups to Congress: Consider the Consequences

The AAUP has joined with 36 other higher education organizations in urging Congress to slow down its reauthorization of the Higher Education Act to allow the consequences of suddenly being rushed through committee with hastily crafted significant changes in federal higher education policy without a students and families and makes significant changes in the likely consequences.

National Security, the Assault on Science, and Academic Freedom

A new report, National Security, the Assault on Science, and Academic Freedom, released by the AAUP on December 8, details troubling threats to academic freedom in the physical and natural sciences that have been exacerbated by the Trump administration's hostility to science.

International scientific exchange and, especially, the charging of innocent Chinese or Chinese American scientists with espionage in the name of national security is one focus of the report. The second is climate science, an area that has been subject to vicious attacks that have intensified significantly under the current administration.

The report’s survey of recent criminal cases involving international scientific exchange suggests that the government’s invocation of national security claims related to espionage has not been justified and is negatively affecting the ability of the United States to participate in global science.

Xiaoxing Xi’s case at Temple University illustrates how stated concerns about national security and espionage have led to increasing threats to the global exchange of scientific research and the academic freedom of American scientists to interact with foreign colleagues. The report also highlights five other instances in which Chinese American or Chinese scientists have been targeted. President Trump’s executive orders restricting entry to the United States for residents of certain

Campus Carry Law Violates Academic Freedom

The AAUP filed an amicus brief on November 20, 2017 supporting a challenge to a statute and policy in Texas that compel faculty to permit concealed handguns in college classrooms. The AAUP argues that the policy violates faculty members’ academic freedom.

Texas passed a “campus carry law” that expressly permits concealed handguns on university campuses, and in 2016 the University of Texas at Austin issued a policy mandating that faculty permit concealed handguns in their classrooms.

Several faculty members sued, challenging the policy and the law. The lower court dismissed the case, holding that the plaintiffs had not proven that they were harmed by the law or university policy. The faculty members appealed and the case is now before the Fifth Circuit federal appeals court.

College of Saint Rose Board Resignations

continued from page 3

McKone, and one of our most active alumni (Mike Miller).

Apparently these former Trustees now share the faculty’s concerns, expressed in three appeals to the Board, to end Stefanco’s presidency.

That five Trustees resigned in protest is alarming and signals a need for immediate official investigation into the College’s financial and personnel matters.

Those resigning were chairs of key oversight committees: Serio chaired the Board’s Legal Affairs Committee, Miller chaired the Audit Committee (with oversight of whistle-blowing), and McKone chaired the Annual Fund committee.

The Board’s fiduciary oversight has been seriously weakened, and the remaining Trustees are closing ranks around a secretive President.

In fact, new Board chair Sr. Mary Anne Heenan and Stefanco are digging in. Together they sent an email to the faculty demanding “unity,” urging faculty to refrain from creating “distracting” media attention, and boldly stating “We aren’t going anywhere.”

Consequently, a majority of the full-time faculty voted to send another letter imploring the remaining Trustees to terminate Stefanco. But Heenan and Board Vice-Chair Norman Massry declined. Heenan, quoted in the school newspaper stated: “Faculty calls for the removal [of Stefanco] are an unpredicatable distraction from the critical work at hand.”

In the same article, Massry is quoted as saying “I hope the majority of our faculty will reflect on whether generating turmoil that may damage our enrollment efforts is in the best interest of our students, our college, our community, and our faculty.”

The College’s AAUP Chapter held a vigil December 15, displaying banners stating “Stefanco Must Go.”

The struggle goes on and will continue until we can reclaim our College, its mission, and the once-close community we had that served our students well for almost 100 years.

The Assault on Science, and Academic Freedom

continued from page 2

Muslim-majority countries and efforts to limit H-1B visas to foreign scientists pose additional, disturbing threats to scientific exchange.

The report argues that the restrictions under consideration now, even if they are ultimately defeated in the courts, create a chilling environment for the international exchange of scholars, including scientists whose work may have no obvious political implications.

The report explores how the politicization of science, rooted in anti-intellectualism and propelled by anti-elite mistrans, is constraining the free pursuit of knowledge and scientific inquiry and limiting the ability of science to serve the public good. As the report notes, challenges to the validity of scientific findings and to the free pursuit of scientific inquiry began well before the inauguration of Donald Trump.

It details the severity of harassment and coordinated attacks that scientists and scholars face online and offline when their research, teaching, or public commentary runs counter to others’ beliefs.

Well-funded interest groups and members of Congress have also sought to intimidate scientific researchers with extensive and specific about assaults on science, and to speak out against the politicization of science, to report extensively and specifically about assaults on science, and to protect academic freedom.


UUP 2018-2019 legislative priorities

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In sync with SUNY

UUP’s legislative priorities include support for a SUNY proposal to create a “Competitive Innovation Fund,” to be used to hire full-time SUNY faculty each year over the next five years. Funding for the $84 million program would include $30 million in new appropriations and use of $18 million budgeted for SUNY’s Performance Improvement Fund.

UUP’s plan differs from SUNY’s in that it would set a target to hire 300 full-time faculty per year, and would only pertain to SUNY. The union is backing SUNY’s plan to add $5.2 million to its state’s Educational Opportunity Program, $1.6 million for Educational Opportunity Centers, and $300,000 in federal funding for the ATTAIN labs.
UUP eyes TAP gap, more faculty with legislative priorities

Ensuring that SUNY campuses are fully reimbursed for costs connected to the state’s Excelsior Scholarship, closing the “TAP gap” for students, and supporting a SUNY initiative to hire more full-time faculty, top United University Professions’ legislative priorities for 2018-19.

UUP will also push for laws that require the state to pay past, present and future federally mandated matching Disproportionate Share Program (DSH) entitlements to SUNY’s three state-run hospitals, and to protect the facilities from any federal legislative cuts in DSH allocations. The union estimates that the hospitals are owed more than $120 million, reaching back to 2016.

“We are well aware of the constraints projected to be put in place in the governor’s Executive Budget,” said UUP President Frederick E. Kowal. “So we have limited our requests to those issues of most importance, issues that will ensure our efforts to maintain affordable access to one of the nation’s largest university systems, and provide high-quality health care in our public teaching hospitals.”

Excelsior and TAP

Kowal said the union will press for additional state funding to make sure that SUNY campuses are “held harmless” and reimbursed for costs or revenue losses caused by the state’s Excelsior Scholarship, a “last-dollar” scholarship for students whose families make less than $100,000 per year. UUP is concerned that the program, with about 12,000 students, will generate enrollment-related increases and revenue decreases, costs that campuses will be forced to pay.

The union also wants the state to pay $60 million to take on the full cost of Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grants for students at state-operated campuses. TAP helps New York residents cover tuition costs; awards are based on income eligibility and a host of other stipulations.

More than 40 percent of TAP students are enrolled at SUNY, yet the University has been forced to pay TAP benefit costs above levels funded by the state, creating what’s known as the “TAP gap”—the difference between SUNY tuition and the maximum TAP award. With the state covering the TAP gap, SUNY would be able to use those dollars to sustain educational quality and improve services to students, Kowal said.

Hospitals in crisis

Kowal said SUNY’s hospitals—Brooklyn’s Downstate Medical Center, Stony Brook University Hospital in Stony Brook, and Upstate Medical University in Syracuse—are hurt financially due to the state’s refusal to release DSH funds.

Funded through Medicaid, the DSH dollars are due the hospitals for services previously provided to Medicaid patients and uninsured individuals. The state has also withheld matching Medicaid payments, which are required by law.

The SUNY hospitals rely on DSH and matching state funds to fulfill their mission to treat all who walk through their doors, regardless of whether these patients have insurance or can pay for care, a hospitals treat many of the state’s sickest and most vulnerable patients.

“This is why we will seek legislation requiring the state and the state Department of Health to release past and present DSH funding to the hospitals,” Kowal stated. “This legislation would also prevent the state from delaying future DSH payments.”

Executive Directors Report

The New York State AAUP’s Executive Directors Report

by Sally Dean-Hosley

Today, more than ever, our AAUP principles are under attack. With the prospect of Janus, the rising number of over-worked, under-paid and undervalued contingent faculty; the increase in the proportion of administrators versus faculty at many colleges and universities; the number of departments and institutions claiming financial woes; the plight of tenured professors who are losing their jobs; and the expanding web of hypocrisy rampant in our government, 2018 is likely to be a year we will not forget.

But there is also opportunity. Remember, democracy thrives on dissent, critical inquiry, freedom of speech, and freedom in research. The NYSC of the AAUP is committed to AAUP principles and seeing these challenges through as well as create and take advantage of opportunities to better serve the needs of our membership—individuals and chapters (Advocacy and CBC).

Today the fastest and most effective way to share information and get feedback is via social media. Toward that end, the NYSC AAUP Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/NYSCAAUP1) is a great space for the Conference to readily reach out to its members and for you to connect with each other and provide information, resources, and camaraderie. The link for each chapter weekly posts and add your own, and don’t forget to share.

The NYSC AAUP also has an award-winning website but right now it is an underused resource. Register today so you can begin to receive periodic updates on important issues, concerns, and action items that will affect academ inies in NYS and across the nation. Registration is quick and simple. Go to http://nysaoup.org and click the “Register” button in the upper right corner of the page. Note that all AAUP Members in NYS are automatically approved if they use their AAUP Membership ID and their first name as listed on their AAUP membership. Non-NYS AAUP members may also register but will have include additional information and be approved before participating.

Our website also allows members to participate in secure forums so that only those who have registered and have the password may send and read particular Forum Topic.

Topics may be generated by any member.

New features are also being added:

■ For example, there will be a “Resistance” tab where you can find a wealth of information on current issues as well as tools and resources for effective social and political action. We will also include links to other resistance efforts, e.g., the One Faculty, One Resistance campaign (https://onefacultyoneresistance.org) launched by National in October. The site serves as a hub for the AAUP’s work on fighting targeted harassment of faculty members, protecting academic freedom and will offer a variety of resources.

■ Changes are also being made to the way the NYSC AAUP Enrolme...
Treasurer, New York State AAUP
Pat Cihon
I am an Associate Professor of Law & Public Policy Emeritus. I retired in January 2014 after spending nearly 36 years at Syracuse University. I have been an AAUP member since 1979, have served as President of the Syracuse University Chapter of the AAUP for a number of years, and have been the AAUP's powerless rank and file AAUP's delegate since about 1996. I would love to continue to serve in that capacity if the members of the state conference would allow me that honor.

Secretary, New York State AAUP
Mary Rose Kubal
Mary Rose Kubal is Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the International Studies major at St. Bonaventure University. She received her B.A. from Haverford College (1983) and M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1995, 2001). She has been a member of the AAUP since 2001.

Statement:
I enthusiastically submit my name as a candidate for Secretary of the New York State Conference. I am committed to fighting for the core AAUP principles of academic freedom and tenure and shared governance. I joined the AAUP almost immediately upon joining the faculty at St. Bonaventure University in 2001 and became active in our local chapter. I currently serve as the St. Bonaventure University chapter president, a position I have held since 2013 and 2008-2010. I served as chapter vice-president 2013-14. As a chapter officer I helped play a role in the removal of St. Bonaventure University chapter president, a position I have held since 2013. I was a member of the AAUP Board of Directors from 2007 to 2012 and currently as Operations Director (January 2007-May 2008) and currently as Chair (since fall 2016). My participation with the State Conference began in 2014 when I became a member of Committee A and soon joined the Steering Committee. As a steering committee member I have regularly attended the bi-annual conference meetings and have often stepped in to take minutes. At the October 2017 meeting the Steering Committee appointed me as Interim Secretary and I hope to be elected to serve a full term. Higher education is facing serious challenges nationally and in New York. Given the magnitude of these challenges, it is crucial that the New York State Conference continue to expand its good work in supporting local chapters and individual members in cooperation with AAUP National. My commitment to shared governance, academically, and a facility for listening to and learning from the faculty and staff of this state. I have a tested commitment to collective decision-making and a facility for listening to and learning from others. I hope that I can count on your support.

Office-at-Large, Two-Year Term
Hollis F. Glaser
I am a full professor at Borough of Manhattan Community College in the Department of Speech, Communications, and Theatre Arts. I received my Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in organizational communication in 1992. I have taught a variety of communication courses including public-speaking, media studies, and administrative decisions. In addition to my teaching duties, I have been chair of the department, chair of the academic senate, served on the Middle States Steering Committee, am a teaching mentor and have been on numerous committees throughout my 30 years in the profession. My political focus has been on democratic organizing and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

I am now fully committed to helping the higher education institutions of New York embody the principles and practices of shared governance and academic freedom as defined by the American Association of University Professors. There is nothing more important to help our students and to ensure the highest quality of education than to ensure that the faculty have a full and proper voice in their teaching, research and the governance of their institutions. I would be honored to serve on the New York State AAUP conference and will work for every faculty member in this state.

Office-of-At-Large, Four-Year Term
(2 vacancies, 3 candidates)
Anne Friedman
Anne Friedman, Ed. D. Professor Emerita, Academic Literacy and Linguistics, Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC); City University of New York (CUNY)

In 2015 I retired from BMCC where I served full-time for 30 years and have held various leadership positions in the New York State Conference. With a doctorate from Columbia University, my research has focused on psycholinguistics, metacognition, schema theory, and critical thinking. I also study the theory and practice of adult learning (andragogy), with a focus on CUNY’s growing body of students aged 25 and older. I have received awards for outstanding service in my discipline, including the New York State Teachers (NYSUT) 2014 Award for Higher Education Member of the Year.

In June 2018 I will complete six years representing District VIII on the AAUP National Council and as the AAUP Executive Committee have served on AAUP’s Community College Committee, the Credentials Committee and currently on the Nominations Committee. I am well versed in AAUP issues of academic freedom, tenure, the corporatization of the university and the privatization and exploitation of the junior faculty and growing national attacks on governance and labor unions. At the national level I have been involved in discussions and strategy sessions related to the imminent Supreme Court decision on agency fee (the Janus case).

My service to AAUP stems from my commitment to our nation’s academic freedom - we have had a history of Open Admissions struggles for over 40 years and am committed to maintaining access to higher education at a time when our colleges are threatened by shrinking budgets and political interference.

I have over 25 years of service as a leader and organizer in governance and labor. At CUNY I was member-at-large and secretary of the AAUP faculty representative on Board of Trustees Committees on Faculty, Staff and Administration and Student Affairs. At the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) I served five terms as Vice President for Community Colleges and a member of the union’s negotiating team for four contracts. Through my work at the PSC I have worked closely with allies in UUP and at SUNY Community Colleges.

Academia faces increasingly harsh attacks on shared governance, academic freedom and tenure. Anti-labor political forces are demonizing unions nationwide and AAUP values are being undermined by long-term changes in higher education. The AAUP must adapt to an academy that is far different than it was at its founding over 100 years ago. Our organization depends on the strengths of its conferences and chapters. While we fight attacks on labor unions we must also pay close attention to maintaining and building our advocacy chapters.

If elected as member-at-large I will continue to advocate with a strong and informed voice to represent the AAUP faculty and staff of this state. I have a tested commitment to collective decision-making and a facility for listening to and learning from others. I hope that I can count on your support.

Kimberley Reiser
Professor of Biology, Nassau Community College
I am running for the position of delegate-at-large for the AAUP NYS (New York State Conference). I have twenty-six years of experience as a tenured faculty member at Nassau Community College (NCC). My education includes receiving a B.A. in Zoology from Drew University and a Ph.D. in Basic Medical Sciences in the field of Microbiology from New York University at the School of Medicine.

My record at the national, state, and local level speaks to my commitment to AAUP and advocacy work. Much of my career has been devoted to advancing shared governance, academic freedom, educational equality and the hiring of a diverse faculty - all to ensure higher education’s contribution to the common good.

In 2015, I was elected as delegate-at-large, and I would like to serve for one more term. I fulfilled all of my responsibilities as delegate-at-large and represented my students at the New York State Conference (NYS) meetings, Steering Committee meetings, national AAUP meetings and Assembly of State Conference meetings. I believe I have the experience...