

# NEW YORK Academe

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## From the President's Desk

by Mary Rose Kubal

We have been busy as a conference since the last newsletter. Our spring conference on faculty mental health and burnout was successful, with excellent panels and hands-on exercises. Our

emergency Zoom on student protests and administrative responses on New York State campuses at the very end of the spring semester was well-attended especially considering the timing and last-minute announcement. We learned from our colleagues how the protests have been (mis)handled on quite a few campuses and how our AAUP chapters have responded.

We also received requests for more information and guidance on AAUP positions related to academic freedom and protest and general questions about the faculty's role in shared governance. We have been working on responding to you, including scheduling our first regular chapter leader Zoom call in July, which was well-attended, and addressing some of these hot-button issues in our upcoming online fall conference.

In many ways, the higher education climate is much more challenging to AAUP principals than it was when I joined in 2001 over two decades ago, but my reasons for joining then were the same as my reasons for staying active in the AAUP now. Indeed, when I joined the faculty at St. Bonaventure University our campus was on the AAUP's censure list for tenure violations linked to our administration's claims of financial exigency in the early 1990s. Sound familiar?

I am happy to report that we have been off the censure list for over a decade now, thanks in good part to our administration's willingness to revisit governance processes around exigency and codify it in our faculty handbook. This would not have been possible without a strong AAUP chapter on our campus. When I joined in 2001, we were among the lowest-paid faculty in New York State and nationally—at least according to the AAUP salary survey.

*continued on page 6*

## The New AAUP Statement on Academic Boycotts

The AAUP has released a new Statement on Academic Boycotts, which was written and unanimously approved by Committee A on Academic Freedom and adopted by the AAUP's governing Council on August 9.

The new statement reconsiders the AAUP's prior categorical opposition to academic boycotts outlined in the 2006 report On Academic Boycotts. The AAUP's revised policy maintains that academic boycotts are not in themselves violations of academic freedom and can instead be legitimate tactical responses to conditions that are fundamentally incompatible with the mission of higher education. The statement recognizes that when faculty members choose to support academic boycotts, they can legitimately seek to protect and advance academic freedom and the fundamental rights of colleagues and students who are living and working under circumstances that violate academic freedom and one or more of those rights. In such contexts, academic boycotts are not in themselves | violations of academic freedom.

*continued on page 2*

### Fall 2024 Academic Issue:

President's Report.....	page 1
New AAUP Statement on Academic Boycotts.....	page 1
Organizing the Organizers.....	page 2
National AAUP Holds Biennial Business Meeting..	page 3
AAUP Condemns Peaceful Protest Crack Down..	page 4
Executive Director's Report.....	page 5
Hot Topics in Higher Education .....	page 6
Todd Wolfson: Professors Are Not the Enemy.....	page 7
AFT's Real Solutions Campaign.....	page 8
National AAUP Officers .....	page 10
AAUP Foundation Leadership.....	page 10
New York State Conference Leadership .....	page 11

NYSC AAUP Website: <https://nyscaaup.org>

 <https://www.facebook.com/NYSAAUPC1>

YouTube: **NYSC AAUP – YouTube**

# Organizing the Organizers: Summer Institute Provides Unionists with Real Solutions for Higher Education

Higher education may be under attack, but the American Association of University Professors and the American Federation of Teachers are ready to fight back. During the AAUP/AFT's Summer Institute in Detroit August 1-4, faculty and staff across the country strategized over tackling threats to academic freedom, shared governance, program closures, budget cuts, and more. At plenaries, workshops, and networking sessions, participants learned from experts and one another, sharing the worst circumstances and the best solutions, useful data and tools, and encouraging tales and lessons learned.

## Living the struggle

The conference opened with two members sharing their unions' struggles with statewide threats. Gretchen McNamara, chief negotiator for the AAUP chapter at Wright State University in Ohio, described how her union successfully stopped a state law targeting diversity, equity, and inclusion programs; the ability to strike; and faculty control over their syllabuses. Among other things, WSU-AAUP/AFT helped rally 553 people to testify against the bill.

Mia McIver, from University Council-AFT, which represents librarians and non-senate faculty at the University of California, connected academic freedom with working conditions: Without job security, adjunct faculty are often fearful their jobs will not be renewed if they speak out about challenging topics. "A campus culture of fear, intimidation, and threat can be perpetuated very [effectively] through precarious working

conditions," said McIver, and the exploitation of contingent labor "erodes and degrades academic freedom for the entire faculty."

Recent student protests on several campuses further highlighted the threat, when police disrupted encampments and arrested or harassed those involved. UC-AFT has consistently championed policies that protect academic freedom and freedom of expression across all campus constituencies.

A panel of union members from historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions discussed chronic underfunding that goes beyond even what higher education institutions are facing more generally. Denise Gaither-Hardy, president of the AAUP/AFT chapter at Lincoln University, an HBCU in Pennsylvania, described how students and faculty played a key role in releasing funds that had been held back by the state, a common occurrence for HBCUs. Lincoln University students marched 66 miles to the state capital to draw attention to the issue.

Panelists also discussed the myth that because HBCUs are, by definition, majority-Black spaces, everything is better there for Black scholars. It's not always true: In these institutions—which were founded by white men, in many cases, and later were led by a male-dominated church culture—Black women can feel disempowered.

Emotional labor is another burden, especially on campuses

*continued on page 3*

## The New AAUP Statement on Academic Boycotts

*continued from page 1*

The freedom to produce and exchange knowledge depends upon the guarantee of other basic freedoms and human rights, among them the rights to life, liberty, security of person, freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention, and the rights to liberty of movement and freedom to choose one's residence. The statement concludes that individual faculty members and students should be free to weigh, assess, and debate the specific circumstances giving rise to calls for systematic academic boycotts and to make their own choices regarding their participation in them. Further, it holds that a faculty member's choice to support or oppose

academic boycotts should not itself be the basis of formal reprisal.

The statement reiterates that academic boycotts should neither involve any political or religious litmus tests nor target individual scholars and teachers engaged in ordinary academic practices, such as publishing scholarship, delivering lectures and conference presentations, or participating in research collaborations. Academic boycotts should target only institutions of higher education that themselves violate academic freedom or the fundamental rights upon which academic freedom depends.

# National AAUP Holds Biennial Business Meeting

The 2024 Biennial Meeting was held June 14-15. In addition to voting in new AAUP officers and Council members, it approved amendments to the AAUP constitution that had been recommended by the AAUP Council. Under the amendment to Article IV, Section 5, Council members can now receive release time or compensation at an equivalent rate, up to a limit of one course per semester, for extraordinary participation in Association matters.

One proposal was submitted for consideration, Divest Pension Funds from Fossil Fuels and Reinvest in Renewable Energy. This proposal was adopted by the biennial meeting and now goes to the AAUP Council for its concurrence.

## Biennial Conference Speakers Focus on Organizing for Higher Ed

The 2024 AAUP higher education conference was held in June, in conjunction with the biennial meeting. Participants heard from a wide range of speakers, who addressed the need for urgent action, solidarity, and broad-based organizing in the fight against far-right attempts to control higher education.

Thanks especially to:

■ **Bill V. Mullen** of Purdue University and **Bethany Letiecq** of George Mason University, who spoke about the links between decolonization, “scholasticide,” and the April 17 National Day of Action for Higher Education.

■ **Patricia Okker**, former president of New College of Florida, who stressed how the current national focus on academic freedom provides the ideal conditions for propelling a nationwide grassroots campaign; and

■ **Taifha Natalee Alexander**, the inaugural director of CRT Forward, a project of the Critical Race Studies Program in the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, who discussed how right-wing activists have used misinformation to weaponize critical race theory and pursue policies that seek to outlaw the study of systemic racism.

## Legislative Updates

■ The AAUP has joined other education organizations in endorsing the bicameral Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act of 2024. The act would nearly double the maximum amount awarded to Pell Grant recipients and ensure greater access to higher education for working families and students.

## Organizing the Organizers

*continued from page 2*

where most faculty are white: Black students—especially first-generation college students—flock to Black faculty for advice, taking time from their already full schedules to support students who benefit from a mentor who can relate to their life experiences.

Panelists urged attendees to reach out to HBCUs in their states and partner up, leaning into the union notion that “together we are stronger.” Mental health, job security, pay rates, and well-maintained campuses are not just HBCU problems, they are union problems.

## Spreading the word, sharing the tools

Some of the most powerful moments of the conference took place in small rooms packed with eager members ready to pick up tools they could take home to their campuses and communities. Workshops provided information—on topics like student debt, artificial intelligence, Title IX, and affirmative action—and skill-building sessions on communicating with members, escalating contract campaigns, fighting program cancellations, holding organizing conversations, conducting strategic campaign research, and even participating in mock bargaining.

Several sessions addressed equity. One explored how to deal

with the spate of anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion legislation that is threatening faculty and staff not just in Florida and Texas but across the country. Another looked at the ways race and gender influence job security, power, and even safety on campus.

A plenary on elections, with Michigan state Rep. Carrie Rheingans (also a member of the Lecturers’ Employee Organization/AFT at the University of Michigan) and Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a former AFT member, also galvanized participants. After an extraordinary 2020 election—when hundreds of citizens showed up at the Michigan election certification meeting to convince the board of canvassers to resist pressure from then-President Trump to reject the election results (the board did resist and certified the election)—she sees 2024 as “the next great battle.”

registration, and nine days of early voting in place—“all of which has dramatically expanded citizens’ opportunities to register and participate in the process,” said Benson. “The power of the people is greater than the people in power,” she added. “We lived it.”

Rheingans described the role of higher education as crucial to the voting process. “One of the most basic things we need to establish and ensure is that we have an educated population,” she said. “As educators, you do have power.”

# AAUP Condemns Wave of Policies Intended to Crack Down on Peaceful Campus Protest

On August 14, the AAUP released a statement condemning administrative efforts intended to crack down on peaceful campus protests. The text is below:

As an apparent reaction to student protests since last October, several college and university administrations have hastily enacted overly restrictive policies dealing with the rights to assemble and protest on campus. These policies, which go beyond reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, impose severe limits on speech and assembly that discourage or shut down freedom of expression. For example, these policies often require registration for demonstrations or protests, which, because they take place spontaneously or with little planning time, is tantamount to forbidding them. Requiring registration also enables surveillance of protest plans, which can discourage protests by groups with minority viewpoints. Many of the latest expressive activity policies strictly limit the locations where demonstrations may take place, whether amplified sound can be used, and the types of postings permitted. With harsh sanctions for violations, the policies broadly chill students and faculty from engaging in protests and demonstrations.

**Those who care about higher education and democracy should be alarmed for several reasons.**

First and foremost, these policies severely undermine the academic freedom and freedom of speech and expression that are fundamental to higher education. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable for the transmission of knowledge, the development of students, and the well-being of democracy. Our colleges and universities should encourage, not suppress, open and vigorous dialogue and debate even on the most deeply held beliefs.

Second, these new policies trample on the rights of students. In 1967, during another wave of student protests, the AAUP and other groups, including the Association of American Colleges (now the American Association of Colleges and Universities) and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, issued the Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students. The principles and standards outlined in the statement are germane to current efforts to suppress student speech and conduct.

College and university students are both citizens and members of the academic community. As citizens, students should enjoy the same freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and right of petition that other citizens enjoy and, as members

of the academic community, they are subject to the obligations that accrue to them by this membership. Faculty members and administration officials should ensure that institutional powers are not employed to inhibit such intellectual and personal development of students as is often promoted by their exercise of the rights of citizenship both on and off campus. (emphasis added)

Third, many of these new campus policies are being imposed with little to no faculty input, which is essential to developing policies that affect the academic freedom of faculty and students. Such top-down edicts by university administrators bypass the central role of elected faculty bodies, such as faculty senates, in university governance. Under the AAUP's Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities, the faculty has "primary responsibility" over teaching content and methods and "those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process," and faculty play an instrumental role in determining general educational policy.

Fourth, the policies curtail the rights of faculty, who are entitled to freedom from institutional censorship or discipline when speaking or writing as citizens. Institutions of higher learning should aim to foster an environment in which faculty, graduate employees, students, and other members of the campus community are free to discuss and debate difficult topics, inside and outside the classroom. The new policies are likely to disproportionately affect contingent and full-time non-tenure-track faculty members, and graduate student employees, especially people of color in these groups.

The recent proliferation of these new restrictive policies seems to be an attempt to appease politicians who are calling for university administrators to use a heavy hand against faculty and student protestors. We must reiterate, as we said in our November 2023 statement *Polarizing Times Demand Robust Academic Freedom*, "By acceding to external political pressures and demands for political censorship instead of encouraging the utmost freedom of discussion, college and university administrations abandon their responsibility for protecting the academic community's central mission of education, research, and service to the broader society and to the public good." Administrators who claim that "expressive activity" policies protect academic freedom and student learning, even as they severely restrict its exercise, risk destroying the very freedoms of speech and expression they claim to protect.

# Executive Director's Report



by Sally Dear-Healey,  
Executive Director, NYSC  
AAUP

I don't know about you, but I love summer! Take a minute while you read this and try to imagine yourself also loving all the various shades and textures of green; the shapes, smells and colors of all the different flowers; the sounds

of birds chirping and witnessing them building nests and nurturing their young, who eventually bravely yet sadly fly off; the frogs croaking throatily down at the pond; the lightening bugs twinkling outside the bedroom window at night; enjoying a vegetable garden (and celebrating successfully staving off the deer and other critters who insist on sharing); the sound of the wind as it moves through the trees in the woods; and even the heaviness of the heat, which seemed to be particularly oppressive this year. Relatedly, thanks to global warming, there has also been an increased number of unusual and in some cases, powerful weather patterns, negatively impacting our sense of safety, control, and overall well-being.

That said, in many ways, summer reminds me of academia, now more than ever a 'flourish or perish' environment, punctuated by the dualistic and often double-bind nature of doing the work we love and have been trained and trusted to do in an environment that is plagued by fear, anxiety, stress, and unsettling storms. In fact, and as I have said before, for many, "living the dream" has turned into a repeating nightmare, an unsettled world punctuated by divisions and distrust and a seemingly blatant lack of logic and compassion. Higher ed has been altered in numerous ways in response to new global threats and cultural climate changes like our weather. The devastation it has left in its wake is palpable.

Here I am reminded of the humble plea, 'grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.' The point is if we are going to meet these challenges head-on, now and in the future, we need to BE AAUP STRONG! The path ahead must be paved with a foundation of collegiality, solidarity, and compassion so that together we can address and conquer current and future challenges to academic freedom and shared governance, areas where the AAUP has been the respected leader for over one hundred years. We must also demand a renewed respect for the faculty profession, and for the work of professional staff that is shown in tangible ways, e.g. fair pay for our work, fair benefits, a safe work environment, etc., as well as facilitating a transparent, collegial, and supported work environment. This leads me to share with you some of the ways the NYSC

of the AAUP is striving to meet your needs as members and chapters in these and other areas.

Let me begin with announcing the newly instituted "Monthly Chapter Leader's Meetings." The two recent chapter leaders meetings we held were well attended and received. Now, at the request of attendees, the NYSC will be hosting these meetings on a monthly drop-in basis with the invitation to come when you can and stay as long as you need to/are able. Since our fall Conference is in September we will begin holding these monthly meetings in October, so look for those email updates.

Circling back to September, the NYSC AAUP fall 2024 Conference, "Hot Topics in Higher Education: Academic | Freedom, Protests, Elections" and our biannual Business Meeting will be held the weekend of September 20th and 21st. Both events will be fully virtual. The Conference, open to AAUP members and their guests will be held on Saturday. The Business Meeting, open only to AAUP members in good standing, will be held on Friday.

As you will note, we have an exciting and impressive lineup of speakers, including Todd Wolfson, President of AAUP National; Isaac Kamola, Center Director for the new AAUP Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom; Ellen Schrecker, Yeshiva University; Michael Thaddeus, Columbia University; Alan Singer, Hofstra University, and Tom Beaudoin, Fordham University. Each speaker will share their insight and wisdom, as well as their own/chapter's 'stories from the trenches,' on the topics of defending academic freedom, campus protests, and so much more.

Here is the REGISTRATION LINK: Registration Fall 2024 - New York State AAUP Conference <https://nyscaaup.org/registration-fall-2024>. Please take a moment and register today!

While the focus of the Conference will be on academic freedom, protests, and the elections, it will also be a unique opportunity to share our tales from the trenches, as well as best practices, and ultimately engage in meaningful conversations about a variety of political, social, ethical, financial, etc. issues impacting higher education today. Equally important, we will be incorporating conversations about what we, as AAUP members, can do to turn things around - once and for all faculty - as well as for professional staff members. It's time. We're due.

Speaking of things that are due, given that times are tough, money is tight, and the future is uncertain, some of you may have questioned the value of your AAUP membership. I get that. I also hope that you are using a realistic cost/benefit analysis, e.g., what do I get for my money. To me, professional memberships are a lot like life and car insurance. You pay for benefits you may never see or rarely realize, but it's still a smart thing to have. Another way I like

*continued on page 9*

# NYSC AAUP Fall 2024 (Virtual) Conference

## HOT TOPICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION: Academic Freedom, Protests, Elections

Virtual Conference - Saturday, September 21st - 8:45 am to 3:15 pm

While the focus of this (virtual) conference will be on academic freedom, protests, and the elections, it will also be a unique opportunity to share/hear tales from the trenches, and best practices, and engage in conversations about a variety of political, social, ethical, financial, etc. issues impacting higher education today.

We are especially excited to offer you an exciting and impressive lineup of speakers.

For example, our **morning keynote speakers** are:

**Todd Wolfson**, President of AAUP National and President of the Rutgers AAUP-AFT Chapter

**Isaac A. Kamola**, Center Director, AAUP Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom

Our **afternoon speakers** will include:

**Ellen Schrecker**, Yeshiva University

**Michael Thaddeus**, Columbia University

**Alan Singer**, Hofstra University

**Tom Beaudoin**, Fordham University

For more information: <https://nyscaaup.org/2024fallconference/>

To register for the Conference: <https://nyscaaup.org/registration-fall-2024/>

## From the President's Desk

*continued from page 1*

When we reached out to NYSUT to learn about the possibility of forming a union, the administration suddenly found funds for real raises.

Fast forward two decades and our administration has stopped reporting salary data to the AAUP and has learned to use consultants to finesse our low salaries to make it look as though we are competitive in a market that isn't really a market and is certainly not competitive.

Still, we were able to protect our benefits during COVID-19—something we have heard from many of you on other campuses were rolled back and still not restored. We have worked hard over the years to make sure AAUP principals are respected by our administration and board. To their credit, they are open to our arguments and respect the AAUP's long-standing and well-earned reputation for supporting fair processes and key values in higher education. But... I am still waiting for a raise or at least a COLA that keeps up with the level of inflation. Academic freedom does not pay the bills as

the AAUP and AFT well know.

Unfortunately, administrations on many campuses around our state are violating basic principles of academic freedom and shared governance as they move to quell student protests, balance budgets on the back of faculty, and generally ignore faculty voices as they create alternate "governance" structures controlled by administrators.

We are aware of these trends and are working as a state conference to help you fight them on your campuses. Of course, we can't do this without you. Please join us at our online fall conference, join our regular chapter leader Zooms when you can, and become involved in our regional councils where you can network with chapters at campuses near yours to support each other in your campus campaigns. Together we are stronger!

And finally, you can share your stories of why you joined the AAUP—we would love to publish them in a new regular feature in this newsletter.

In solidarity,

*Mary Rose Kubal*

# AAUP President Todd Wolfson: Professors Are Not the Enemy. Fascists Are.

*In response to comments made by Republican Vice-Presidential candidate J.D. Vance. AAUP President Todd Wolfson released the following statement:*

The ascension of J. D. Vance to the Republican presidential ticket has brought the decades-long battle to define the future of American higher education to a tipping point. With Vance, American Far-Right authoritarians have succeeded in elevating a fascist who vows to “aggressively attack universities in this country” to within striking distance of their goal: the annihilation of American higher education as we know it. All those who care about higher education, academic freedom, and the future of democracy should prepare for the fight ahead by organizing their campus communities.

Vance’s labeling of professors as “the enemy” and his praise of Hungarian dictator Viktor Orbán’s seizure of state universities as “the closest that conservatives have ever gotten to successfully dealing with leftwing domination of universities” are unambiguous. Should he and the dark-money funders backing him gain power, they aim to take control of American higher education and bend it to their will. Ironically, they would use fear and misinformation to turn colleges and universities into what the Far Right has for years falsely accused them of being: ideological indoctrination centers.

The recent history of right-wing attacks on higher education has been expertly laid out in the AAUP’s report *Manufacturing Backlash: Right-Wing Think Tanks and Legislative Attacks on Higher Education*. Between 2021 and 2023, more than one hundred and fifty bills were introduced in state legislatures by radical conservatives seeking to undermine academic freedom and university autonomy. These bills included ninety-nine academic gag orders seeking to ban “critical race theory” or other so-called “divisive concepts” as well as efforts to defund campus

diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives; weaken tenure and accreditation; and establish academic programs designed to teach and promote ideological agendas.

While attacks on American higher education are nothing new, the scope of the Project 2025 blueprint for a Trump-Vance presidency offers a frightening glimpse into an authoritarian future that would transform American colleges

and universities into thought-control factories by stifling ideas, silencing debate, and destroying autonomy. Project 2025 would roll back decades of progress on access to higher education, eliminate protections for LGBTQ+ students and sexual assault survivors, privatize student

loans, end loan forgiveness, and, if we take its authors at their word, abolish the Department of Education entirely. We cannot afford to let this happen.

Without a just and inclusive higher education system that serves the public good, the majority of Americans will be excluded from meaningful participation in our democracy. The AAUP is dedicated to fighting for an inclusive higher

education system that works for and is led by working people, students, and the communities it serves. We call on national leaders to help resolve the higher education crisis by fully funding higher education, expanding access, ending the student debt emergency, and protecting the freedom to learn, speak,

assemble, research, and organize in all higher education institutions.

We are in a crucial moment that will decide the future of higher education for decades to come. Colleges and universities are the bedrock of American democracy and the engine of social mobility, innovation, and progress. We can’t allow fascists to strip it away. Now is the time to fight.

“All those who care about higher education, academic freedom, and the future of democracy should prepare for the fight ahead...”

“...Project 2025...a frightening glimpse into an authoritarian future that would transform American colleges and universities into thought-control factories...”

# AFT's \$1 Million "Real Solutions for Higher Education" Campaign

On July 17, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)—with which AAUP is affiliated, announced a major national campaign to protect and re-establish higher education as a bastion of democratic freedom and opportunity, against the attacks of bad faith actors who seek to disinvest, shatter job security, silence free speech, and put short-term profit over access and affordability.

Real Solutions for Higher Education is a multipronged, multiyear \$1 million campaign to ensure higher education truly serves students and communities and to reclaim higher education as a public good. In its inaugural year, the campaign's objective is to identify and support AFT locals and state affiliates, through collective bargaining, issue campaigns, and legislative efforts, to tackle the "three A's":

■ **Affordability.** Students must be able to pursue the educational path of their choice, without a lifetime of debt.

■ **Access for all.** The economic opportunities postsecondary education provides must be achievable for everyone, regardless of geography or demography.

■ **Academic freedom.** All members of the campus community must be able to safely engage in a free, uncensored exchange of ideas.

"Higher education is a vehicle to the middle class, a public good that should offer opportunity without strings attached—but that mission is becoming increasingly imperiled," said AFT President Randi Weingarten. "At its best, college prepares students with the skills to learn and thrive as citizens in our democracy. But to get there, we need a system that is accessible, affordable and upholds academic freedom.

"That's why we're launching Real Solutions for Higher Education. We're responding to the assaults on free speech and austerity budgets, to fight for a reshaped system. We're pushing back against precarious employment that requires adjunct faculty to string together five or six separate teaching gigs to get by. And we're fighting for universities and colleges to live up to their public promise and provide the teaching and learning our students deserve."

Real Solutions aims to improve employment conditions at colleges and universities, working with state and local affiliates to strengthen and safeguard the basic tenets of higher education. And it aims to increase public funding for two- and four-year institutions and ensure students can access affordable, fully resourced colleges and universities.

The AFT will also tackle threats to academic freedom and free speech, targeting attempts to curtail faculty rights on campus. To safeguard intellectual and academic freedom, educators need meaningful job security and sustainable careers. An end to contingency in higher education will boost dignity at

work and provide students with the education they deserve.

**The AFT and the American Association of University Professors are affiliated nationally.**

"The AFT's Real Solutions for Higher Education will identify and support the best ways our affiliates can address the crises that have long plagued higher education," said Todd Wolfson, president of both the AAUP and Rutgers AAUP-AFT.

"From confronting the threats to campus free speech and academic freedom that present an enormous challenge in ensuring our students and faculty can learn and teach safely and productively, to promoting better job security and ending contingency for the majority of our academic workers who toil under precarious employment conditions, the time is now to confront these issues proactively and decisively.

"And at a time when our students, families and communities are faced with a system of higher education that has become unaffordable and difficult to access without incurring tremendous debt, together we must recommit to higher education as a public good worthy of robust investment. I look forward to working alongside my brothers and sisters in this campaign for a better higher education for all."

Over the next year, the AFT will be working with local affiliates to identify specific needs and develop actionable solutions. At the same time, the AFT will also push for a shift in the public narrative to reframe higher education as a public good.

"We have long identified the problems that plague higher education; we must now proactively fight threats to academic freedom, public disinvestment in our colleges and universities, and job insecurity on our campuses," said Derryn E. Moten, co-president of the AFT Faculty-Staff Alliance at Alabama State University, Local 4866, and co-chair of the AFT Higher Education program and policy council. "This campaign will advance solutions that will truly support our faculty, staff, students and communities."

The union will work toward developing new tools and resources for members and will push back on legislation that targets higher education workers and academic freedom while fighting for legislation that protects those same workers and safeguards that freedom. It will arm local affiliates with the necessary resources to withstand the assault from political extremists and move their colleges and universities in the direction of democracy.

The AFT is building a movement to secure our nation's economic future and boost social prosperity by fighting for what our students, faculty, staff, and communities need. Our collective success will come from the dedicated and steadfast work of our local unions and state affiliates—and our Real Solutions campaign will provide critical support to that end.



# Executive Director's Report

*continued from page 5*

to look at purchases, memberships, subscriptions (and for those who know me, even clothes and boots!) is how many hours I would have to work to pay for them. What I have determined through this process is that some things are worth the work, and some things aren't. I believe paying my AAUP membership is worth my time and my work, and in turn it's a good investment. It's the sweet little black dress you keep in your closet - or that one special club you carry around in your golf bag - just in case and for those times when you need it. It doesn't need to be explained. It's just what you do and what you believe in. It's what you need to feel okay, safe, and supported.

Speaking of memberships, since our spring 2024 conference in late April, literally hundreds of AAUP members have renewed their memberships, with a whopping one hundred members renewing on July 1st alone! As of 8/22, we also have had fifty-three new members join. Strikingly, this year there have been several days or periods when memberships poured in. It's exhilarating but not unexpected since people have always come to the AAUP in times of trouble. So, as you might imagine, there were a great number of renewals and new members who joined during the protests and in light of 2024 elections. Faculty and professional staff in higher education know that they need the help and support of the AAUP, and they act by joining. And even if they aren't a union, they still act like one. That's solidarity!

Speaking of solidarity, since the fall 2023 meeting and conference, AAUP and the NYS Conference have welcomed three Advocacy chapters. The Barnard College AAUP Chapter is a brand-new chapter and the Yeshiva University AAUP Chapter and the Wagner College AAUP Chapter are revitalized chapters. Welcome all!

This is also a good opportunity to remind chapters that the NYSC has Chapter Development Grants available for new and existing chapters. For more information email me at [sdearhealeyaaup@gmail.com](mailto:sdearhealeyaaup@gmail.com) or visit our website.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if there is anything I and/or the NYS Conference can do to help support you as an AAUP member or as an AAUP Chapter, or if you 'just' need someone to talk to. We also want to hear from you about what is/isn't going on at your institution and/or with your AAUP chapter too. Last but not least, please consider sending in your "**Why I'm an AAUP Member**" story to our new Academe column by that name. Those submissions can be sent directly to Jeff Kraus, Editor, NYS Academe at [jfkraus1@aol.com](mailto:jfkraus1@aol.com).

You can always reach me at [sdearhealeyaaup@gmail.com](mailto:sdearhealeyaaup@gmail.com) or we can connect by phone (607) 656-9477.

See you in September!

Be well, stay safe, and in solidarity,

*Sally*

## NYSC AAUP Fall 2024 (Virtual) Conference

# HOT TOPICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Saturday, September 21st - 8:45 am to 3:15 pm

For more information: <https://nyscaaup.org/2024fallconference/>

To register for the Conference: <https://nyscaaup.org/registration-fall-2024/>

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# National AAUP Officers

**Todd Wolfson**, President    **Rotua Lumbantobing**, Vice President    **Danielle Aubert**, Secretary-Treasurer

*At-Large Member of Council*

**Paul Davis**, At-Large Council Member    **Chenjerai Kumanyika**, At-Large Council Member

**Ernesto Longo**, At-Large Council Member

*Regional Council Members*

**Antonio Gallo**, Regional Council Member/Region 1

(Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands)

**Karim Roseblatt**, Regional Council Member/Region 2

(Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia)

**Gretchen McNamara**, Regional Council Member/Region 3

(Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Canada)

**Donna Murch**, Regional Council Member/Region 4

(New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands)

**Davarian Baldwin**, Regional Council Member/Region 5

(Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

*Other Members, Non-Voting*

**Risa Lieberwitz**, General Counsel    **Irene Mulvey**, Past President    **Nancy Long**, Staff

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# AAUP Foundation Leadership

Effective June 14, 2021, the AAUP Foundation is governed by a board of directors that includes President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the members of the AAUP National Council.

*Officers*

**Todd Wolfson**, President    **Rotua Lumbantobing**, Vice President    **Danielle Aubert**, Secretary-Treasurer

*Directors*

**Davarian Baldwin**    **Paul Davis**    **Antonio Gallo**    **Chenjerai Kumanyika** (2028)

**Ernesto Longa**    **Gretchen McNamara**    **Donna Murch**    **Karin Roseblatt**

*Other Members, Non-Voting*

**Risa Lieberwitz**, General Counsel    **Nancy Long**, staff

*Audit Committee*

**Deborah Cooperstein**    **Antonio Gallo**    **Nadine Harris**, staff

*Investment Committee*

**Matías Fontenla**    **Michele Ganon**    **Nadine Harris**, staff

# New York State Conference Leadership

**Mary Rose Kubal**, President    mrkubalaaup@gmail.com

**Leah Atkins**, Vice President    akins@sunydutchess.edu

**Matthew Murray**, Treasurer    matthew.murray@sunydutchess.edu

**John Shekita**, Secretary    shekitka@gmail.com

## *Members Elected at Large*

**Kimberley Reiser**, Executive Council Member At-Large    Kimberley.Reiser@ncc.edu

**Vasiliki (Valerie) Lagakis** Executive Council Member At-Large    lagakis@hotmail.com

**Hollis Glaser**, Executive Council Member At-Large    hollisglaser@yahoo.com

At-Large Position Open

**Chenjerai Kumanyika**, At-Large Member of AAUP Council District 4

**Sally Dear-Healey**, Executive Director    sdearhealeyaaup@gmail.com

## **CUNY Council**

**Cecelia McCall**, Chair    liann.mccall@gmail.com

## **Collective Bargaining Council**

**Adam Pack**, Chair    apack@utica.edu

## *Standing Committees*

### **Committee A; Academic Freedom and Tenure**

**Irwin Yellowitz**, Chair    iyellowitz@aol.com or contact Sally Dear-Healey, Executive Director

### **Committee on Academic Professionals**

**Vasiliki (Val) Lagakis**, Chair    Vasiliki.Lagakis@ncc.edu

### **Committee on College and University Governance**

**Kimberley Reiser**, Chair    Kimberley.Reiser@ncc.edu

### **Committee on Chapters, Members and Dues**

**Katherine Cho**, Chair    chokatherine7@gmail.com

### **Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession**

**Thomas X. Carroll**, Chair.    txcarroll98@gmail.com

### **Committee on Faculty Holding Contingent Appointment**

**Nathan Schrader**, Chair    schraderstudios@gmail

### **Committee on Governmental Relations**

**Fred Floss**, Chair    flossfg@buffalostate.edu

### **Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Accepting Applications for Chair and Members

### **Committee on Retirement**

Accepting Applications for Chair and Members

### **Committee on Gender and Sexuality in the Academic Profession**

Accepting Applications for Chair and Members

*continued on page 12*

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# New York State Conference Leadership

*continued from page 11*

## **Academe Newsletter Editor**

**Jeffrey Kraus** jfkraus1@aol.com

## **Communications Director**

**Tanya Loughead** tanya.loughead@gmail.com

## *Regional Councils*

### **The Long Island Council**

**Sophie Christman**, Chair Adris781211@proton.me

### **NYC-Westchester Council**

**Jacob M. Appel**, Co-Chair jacobmappel@gmail.com

Seeking Co-Chair

### **Lower Central Council**

Seeking Chair and Members

### **Capital Area-Hudson Council**

Seeking Chair and Members

### **Western-Midwestern Council**

Seeking Chair and Members