

NEW YORK Academe

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From the President's Desk

by Mary Rose Kubal

The Trump administration's assault on higher education has been remarkable. Some aspects of the attacks were foreseeable. In my column back in January, I highlighted the education agenda outlined in the Heritage

Foundation's Project 2025 and the America First Policy Institute's America First Agenda. Cuts to overhead for federal research grants, the targeting of DEI initiatives, especially through changes in the accreditation process, and a rollback of federal financial aid for students were emphasized in Project 2025.

However, the vitriol behind the attacks on academic freedom, the deportation and cancellation of student visas, the kidnapping and incarceration of graduate students and faculty members, and the targeting of elite institutions for alleged acts of antisemitism has been shocking—intentionally so.

Institutions across the state have been affected—NYU, Columbia, and Cornell have been in the headlines, but we have all been impacted. Administrators on every campus in the state received the February 14 Dear Colleague (anti-love) letter outlining the administration's efforts to eliminate all forms of DEI programming, even while admitting in a footnote that they had no legal standing to dictate curricular matters. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, ten institutions across the state, including my own, saw 60 student visas canceled.

The impacts on research and our biomedical infrastructure are devastating. Adding in upcoming cuts to Medicaid outlined in the “big, beautiful bill” just passed by the House, the impact could be existential for some programs and even institutions. As Fred Floss, the chair of our state conference Government Relations Committee, explained at our spring business meeting, cuts to Medicaid will likely lead to retrenchments in the NYS budget, which was just

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Strong UUP Advocacy Pays Off in State Budget

United University Professions, America's largest higher education union, expressed gratitude to Governor Kathy Hochul and the state Legislature for the additional funding allocated to SUNY and SUNY's public teaching hospitals in Syracuse and Brooklyn within the approved state budget.

The 2025-2026 state budget includes an increase of \$114 million in state aid for SUNY and an additional \$450 million in capital funding to construct a new emergency department and annex at Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse. Downstate University Hospital has received \$750 million more in capital funding for what Brooklyn community members hope will be a newly reimagined version of the hospital that addresses all their inpatient needs.

“We thank Gov. Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and

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

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

YouTube: **NYSC AAUP – YouTube**

Adams Restores CUNY Funding

On Thursday, May 1, Mayor Eric Adams announced that all funding for CUNY, which his administration had cut over the past four years, would be restored. CUNY's community colleges, primarily funded by the city, have lost nearly 500 full-time positions since Adams took office. The restoration totals \$96 million in operating funds, along with \$30 million for ASAP, ACE, and the Brooklyn Recovery Corps at Medgar Evers College. In response, PSC President James Davis stated:

"At a time when colleges and universities face unprecedented authoritarian attacks from the federal government, these baseline City budget restorations made by Mayor Adams

are welcome news. CUNY's faculty, staff, students, and the communities our colleges serve are subject to intense economic and political instability right now. As PSC members have said consistently, we need steady funding and support from City Hall."

In their joint statement, Speaker Adrienne Adams and Finance Chair Justin Brannan, steadfast supporters of CUNY and the PSC, remarked that the Mayor's budget proposal was "a credit to our years of consistent budget advocacy with New Yorkers and stakeholders in pushing back on his budget cuts."

Nancy Romer, PSC/CUNY, Receives NYSC AAUP Higman Award

by Sally Dear-Healey

Nancy Romer, PhD, PSC-CUNY, described by colleagues and friends as a visionary, passionate, and effective activist, was honored with the 2025 Francis "Frank" Higman Award for Service to AAUP Collective Bargaining Chapters in New York State by the NYSC AAUP. The award, named in honor of Frank Higman, a longtime member of the AAUP and founding member of the Niagara University Lay Teachers Association, where he served for over two decades as NULTA's President and chief negotiator, specifically honors a person who is exemplary in, "advancing academic freedom or shared governance; promoting the economic

security of academics; helping the higher education community organize; and ensuring higher education's contribution to the higher good." We congratulate Nancy on receiving the Higman Award, a truly remarkable symbol of her lifetime achievements.

A virtual award ceremony took place on Thursday, April 10th, with strong attendance from family, friends, and colleagues. Thank you all for your support of Nancy and her work, and thank you, Nancy, for being such an incredible inspiration to us all! Here is a link to the video of the award ceremony: <https://youtu.be/dSPbn9VnlOI>.

UUP Advocacy Pays Off in State Budget

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state legislators for delivering a strong budget for SUNY," said UUP President Fred Kowal.

Kowal said the additional \$114 million in state aid could assist as many as 17 cash-strapped campuses—many of which are smaller technical, agricultural, and comprehensive schools situated in communities throughout Upstate New York, facing multimillion dollar deficits.

Kowal also thanked lawmakers for investing in SUNY's public teaching hospitals. The upstate hospital is in dire need of a new emergency department to replace its outdated, overcrowded emergency room that struggles to serve a vast 14-county area. The \$450

million in capital funding will accomplish that, he said.

Regarding Downstate, Kowal stated: "The governor has said that she believes in a stronger, better SUNY Downstate and we believe she's shown her commitment to this vital public teaching hospital by including important capital funding for Downstate in the budget," said Kowal.

He added, "While we are disappointed that an additional \$250 million in capital funding in Senate and Assembly one-house bills was left out of the budget, we are committed to working with the governor and the Legislature to ensure that a new, reimagined and revitalized Downstate hospital reflects the community's plan, which provides the inpatient health care services it needs and deserves."



State Education Labor Leaders Call on SUNY, CUNY Chancellors to Challenge Trump Administration Attacks on the Public Higher Education Systems

In a statement, United University Professions President Frederick E. Kowal, Professional Staff Congress/CUNY President James Davis, and Roberta Elins, a NYSUT Board of Directors member representing SUNY community colleges, call on SUNY Chancellor John King Jr. and CUNY Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez to immediately declare that SUNY and CUNY will challenge any attempts by the Trump administration to undermine academic freedom, threaten the integrity of scientific research, stifle free speech, and trample the due process rights of all students—including international students.

“The only way to deal with a bully is to stand up to him, whatever the outcome, because the bully interprets all else as weakness. To preserve the great SUNY and CUNY institutions we know, and to transform them for the future, we must fight for them.

“It is time for SUNY Chancellor John King Jr., and CUNY Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez to state preemptively and unequivocally that SUNY and CUNY will contest and resist any and all attempts by any administration of the government to undermine academic freedom and shared governance on any of its campuses, and that they will fight the Trump administration’s effort to revoke international student and work visas and remove them from campus—and ultimately the country.

“The Trump administration is only interested in crushing academic freedom and university research and flipping higher education to control how students think and what they think. Harvard University’s president and faculty just took a courageous stand against the administration’s vicious attacks. We see Harvard’s defiance as a turning point for higher education. President Trump and his enablers are hell-bent on destroying the freedom of thought and expression that have for centuries been hallmarks of university campuses, laboratories and classrooms.

“Prestige universities have been the initial targets, but make no mistake, the attacks will not stop there. The Trump

administration will come after colleges and universities large and small, silencing dissenting voices as it exerts improper control over academic inquiry at higher education institutions across the country.

“We strongly support and appreciate an April 22 letter signed by more than 200 college and university presidents—including Chancellor Matos Rodríguez and several CUNY and SUNY campus presidents—that speaks out against the Trump administration’s overreach regarding higher education. But this letter, while well-intentioned, does not go nearly far enough to defend and protect our students, our academics and professionals, nor does it confront and reject the administration’s attacks on academic freedom, diversity, equity and inclusion and research funding, among so many other egregious actions it has taken during its short but tumultuous time in office.

“It is regrettable that up until this point, Chancellor King has chosen not to sign on to the letter. Chancellor, SUNY is a target of the Trump administration and the attacks will come. Attempting to hide from this reality is misguided, at the very least.

“As chancellors of the nation’s largest and most comprehensive public higher education systems, it is time for them to show courage and to lead, right now. Other college and university administrators will follow their lead. But chancellors King and Matos Rodríguez must not wait for that to happen.

“They should work to form an academic mutual defense compact, like the initiative created by Big 10 University leaders. A coalition of colleges and universities standing together can plan a strong, unified answer to Trump’s assault on higher ed, including legal, communications, advocacy and other responses. An attack on one is an attack on all.

“Only by coordinating to fight side by side can higher education defeat Trump’s legal, political and financial extortion campaign against the nation’s colleges and universities. There is no time to waste.”

New York State Budget Includes Funding for Higher Education

The 2025-26 enacted \$254.3 billion State Budget, although nearly six weeks late, included funding for several higher education initiatives. The budget provides funding for the following programs.

Full Support for Over \$1B for HESC Financial Aid Programs

The 2025-26 enacted State Budget maintains New Yorkers' access to affordable higher education by funding over \$1 billion in HESC-administered financial aid programs. Governor Kathy Hochul has advocated for provisions to expand financial aid access, enhance eligibility processing timeframes, and promote greater participation in higher education.

Increase in SUNY Funding

The 2025-2026 state budget allocates an increase of \$114 million in state aid for SUNY and an additional \$450 million in capital funding to construct a new emergency department and annex at Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse. Downstate University Hospital has received an extra \$750 million in capital funding, which Brooklyn community members hope will result in a new, reimaged version of the hospital that meets all of their inpatient needs.

\$85 million in additional capital for CUNY projects, including:

- \$43 million for CUNY Hunter College;
- \$40 million in Flexible Capital Project funding; and
- \$2 million for the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies.

\$47 million Investment to Make Community College Free for Adult Learners

The 2025-26 Budget includes a \$47 million investment to make community college tuition-free for New Yorkers aged 25 to 55 who pursue associate degrees in high-demand fields. This transformative program, administered by SUNY and

CUNY, expands access to higher education for adult learners and supports workforce development across the state.

Part-Time Financial Aid Programs

The 2025-26 Budget consolidates three existing state financial aid programs for part-time students: Aid for Part-Time Study, the Part-Time Scholarship award program, and Part-Time TAP. This consolidation simplifies the application process and ensures greater accessibility. The minimum required credit hours for Part-Time TAP eligibility will also be reduced from six to three credits per semester, an initiative supported by an additional \$6.9 million in funding.

This effort builds on enhancements made to TAP last year, aimed at improving access to financial aid for thousands of part-time students who may have been ineligible under previous policies.

Streamline Excelsior Scholarship Payments

The 2025-26 Budget merges the Excelsior Scholarship award with the Excelsior Tuition Credit payments, simplifying the administration of the Excelsior Scholarship program for HESC and students.

The Excelsior Scholarship continues to allow students from families earning up to \$125,000 to attend SUNY and CUNY institutions tuition-free.

Additional Funding for the Scholarship and Loan Forgiveness Programs

For 2025-26, the enacted Budget maintains the additional funding allocated last year for the following scholarships and loan forgiveness programs:

- \$1.0M for the Patricia K. McGee Scholarship for a total of \$4.9M
- \$50,000 for the NYS Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Program for a total of \$200,000
- \$100,000 for the NYS Child Welfare Scholarship for a total of \$150,000

**Watch for Updates and Announcements
on the NYSC AAUP Website**

<https://nyscaaup.org>

AAUP Briefs Defend an Independent Legal System, Reject Ideological Deportations

On April 10, the AAUP and allies filed two separate friend-of-the-court briefs.

With the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, the AAUP submitted a brief supporting the law firm Perkins Coie in its battle against the Trump administration. Perkins Coie was the subject of an executive order that limited the firm's ability to represent government contractors and access federal buildings.

Unlike some of the largest U.S. law firms, which struck deals with the Trump administration, Perkins Coie chose to sue the administration. The court temporarily blocked the order and is now considering a motion for summary judgment that would permanently enjoin its enforcement. More than 500 law firms, along with the American Civil Liberties Union and several other parties, have submitted an additional

friend-of-the-court brief arguing in favor of blocking the order. The AAUP's brief highlights the harms that will ensue if lawyers fear taking on cases or making certain arguments due to potential government retaliation. It also discusses the dangerous stance taken by the administration through its casual invocation of national security to justify various actions and resist robust judicial review.

To fortify the lawsuit *AAUP v. Rubio*, thirty faculty groups, including seventeen AAUP chapters, organized to join an amicus brief urging a preliminary injunction against the ideological deportations of students and scholars. AAUP members from public and private institutions, from community colleges to research universities, spanning Texas to Minnesota, California to New Hampshire, and points in between, are exercising solidarity to protect students and colleagues.

New 2025 AAUP Redbook has been Published

The AAUP is excited to announce the publication of the twelfth edition of Policy Documents and Reports, known as the Redbook.

The Redbook is a tool, developed collaboratively over more than a century, to defend and strengthen today's academic communities. Members are eligible for a 30 percent discount on the Redbook and several other books as a member benefit.

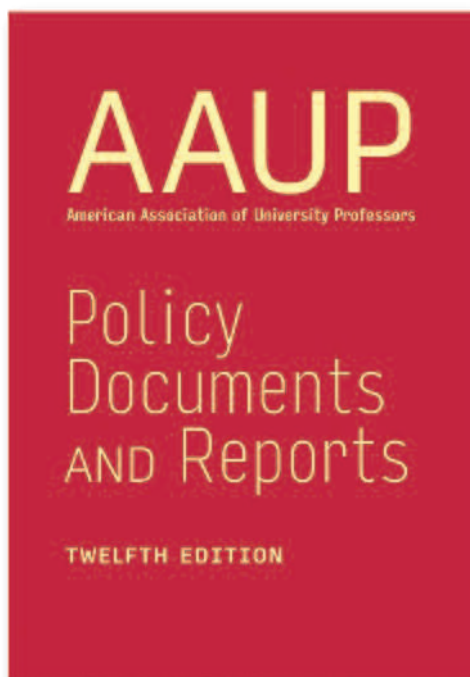
Inside, you will find guidance to inform and bolster faculty handbooks and collective bargaining contract proposals on academic freedom, shared governance, due process, contingent appointments, antidiscrimination policies, online education, intellectual property, institutional budgets, students' rights, and more. Many faculty handbooks and collective bargaining agreements already incorporate AAUP language about essential concepts from the 1940 Statement on Principles of

Academic Freedom and Tenure and other documents, and the principles of shared governance outlined in the Redbook inform decision-making in colleges and universities across the country.

The Redbook is an indispensable resource for working with colleagues to hold administrations accountable for sound academic practice and to protect and defend college and university teaching and research.

Its AAUP-recommended best practices provide enforceable policy language that improves faculty working conditions and student learning conditions.

The Redbook can be purchased through the Johns Hopkins University Press website: [https://www.press.jhu.edu/search?keyword=AAUP%20Redbook&f%](https://www.press.jhu.edu/search?keyword=AAUP%20Redbook&f%20)



Executive Director's Report



by Sally Dear-Healey,
Executive Director, NYSC AAUP

I don't know about you, but spring and summer couldn't come fast enough this year. Not only was it a particularly challenging winter in terms of snow and cold, but the climate at many of our institutions, and for some life in general has been unsettled and stormy as well. Still, there are times when things go really well,

and our spring conference was a prime example!

Those of you who attended our spring 2025 NYSC AAUP Conference on The Crisis in Shared Governance. The Basics, The Skills, AND the Tools, were treated to two amazing speakers, both of whom sit on AAUP National's Committee on College and University Governance. Roxanne Shirazi, M.A., M.S.L.I.S., Head of Archives and Special Collections and Associate Professor at CUNY Graduate Center spoke about 'stopping the grift, the special powers of librarians and academic professionals in shared governance.' Pippy Holloway, Ph.D., Chair, Department of History, University of Richmond, and incoming president of the Virginia Conference of the AAUP addressed resources and strategies for protecting shared governance. The afternoon program, which was run by the chair (Kimberley Reiser) and members of the NYSC AAUP Committee on College and University Governance, gave participants the opportunity to engage in lively, interesting, and thoughtful conversations on various aspects of shared governance as well as what was happening at their institutions in terms of issues, concerns, efforts, and wins. The end goal was to create a safe space to engage with ideas, tools, and strategies that could be taken back and implemented within their individual chapters and institutions. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our morning speakers, who also helped with the afternoon program, as well as the entire NYSC Shared Governance Committee who helped plan and run the afternoon workshops.

Also, as you may also remember, we recently created several NYSC AAUP awards, given to individuals whose service has been recognized by their colleagues as significant and/or exemplary. This year one award was given out. On Thursday, April 10th, the NYSC AAUP hosted a virtual award ceremony for Nancy Romer, PSC-CUNY, who received the Francis "Frank" Higman Award for Service to AAUP Collective Bargaining Chapters in New York State. Thank you, Nancy, for all your work. Your energy and activism are an inspiration to all!

Should you be interested, a video of the award ceremony is available on the NYSC AAUP YouTube site:

<https://youtu.be/dSPbn9VnlOI>. Please note that there are a number of other videos that you may be interested in viewing on the NYSC AAUP YouTube channel (NYSC AAUP - YouTube), including previous conference recordings, the Financial Analysis Training with Howard Bunsis, one on How to Talk to the Media, and more.

Looking to the future, we will be holding at least one Chapter Leader's meeting this summer, some of our members and State Conference leadership will be attending Summer Institute in July (17-20), and our fall 2025 conference, the broad theme of which will be "Solidarity," is taking shape. As is typical, the format for both the fall business meeting and the conference will be virtual, and final dates for both events will be determined soon. If you are interested in being a speaker, please email your proposal before Friday, June 12th to sdearhealeyaaup@gmail.com, providing a title for your presentation/paper, a short description of what you would like to present on (related to the theme solidarity), and a brief explanation for why you would like to be part of this NYSC AAUP conference. You may also recommend someone else as a speaker. As always, please reach out if you have any questions or need additional information and be sure to watch your email and check the NYSC AAUP website on a regular basis for updates (New York State AAUP Conference American Association of University Professors).

Now for the not so good news, although I'm sure none of it is new news. Despite our best efforts and those of our brothers and sisters, these remain difficult and challenging times for many of us. Attacks on academic freedom, and integrity - OUR integrity - are rampant. The seemingly persistent need to monitor what we say, do, and even what we think has become ever more pervasive in a world where what we say and do can, and often is judged, taken out of context, or used against or to hurt us (and sometimes even those we care about), even if it is the truth. The bottom line? There has never been a greater need for all of us to stand together in solidarity!

And it's not just faculty and professional staff that are speaking up. A May 15th article in Inside Higher Ed (FIRE: 600 Students Punished for Protected Speech Since 2020) spoke to the "shift in what speech is being targeted-and by whom." The article goes on to say, "drawing on examples from news reports and free speech trackers, the Students Under Fire report—a riff on FIRE's long-standing Scholars Under Fire database—examined more than 1,000 incidents in which a student or student group was either targeted, meaning someone called on their institution to discipline them, or was actually punished for expression protected by the First Amendment." The article also mentioned the findings show "significant overreach by administrators." This observation is certainly nothing new to those of us who are organizing

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PSC Condemns Use of NYC Police to Break UP Brooklyn College Protest

In a message sent this evening to CUNY Chancellor Matos Rodríguez and Brooklyn College President Anderson, PSC President James Davis condemned the use of NYPD Strategic Response Group (SRG) to intimidate and disperse a group of roughly 30 non-violent student protesters at the Brooklyn College campus today.

May 8, 2025

Dear Chancellor Matos Rodríguez and President Anderson,

The PSC condemns your use of NYPD Strategic Response Group (SRG) to intimidate and disperse a group of roughly 30 non-violent student protesters on the Brooklyn College campus today.

The protesters were engaged in discussion with representatives of the administration and had complied with their Request to remove tents that could have been used for an encampment. Their non-violent protest did not block access to

campus buildings or otherwise interfere with the college's educational processes or facilities, as prohibited by university regulations on the maintenance of public order. Nonetheless, dozens of officers in riot gear – three times the number of students – confronted the non-violent protesters as they marched on the quad. They moved the students from their campus onto the city sidewalk.

At that point the student demonstration became something other than a campus protest. That did not have to happen. CUNY campuses should be spaces in which students who are not infringing on the rights of other members of the campus community may exercise their constitutionally protected right to freedom of speech and assembly.

James Davis, President

Professional Staff Congress

Governance Summit at RIT

By Stephen Aldersley

On April 12th, around thirty faculty members from twelve colleges and universities across Western New York and beyond gathered for a 'governance summit' on the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) campus. The idea for the meeting was conceived just before the November 2024 election, with an initial agenda centered on questions of academic governance and goals focused on sharing stories of successes and failures from participant campuses, as well as promising, generalizable strategies emerging from those discussions.

The Trump Administration's subsequent full-frontal attack on higher education added a new dimension to the agenda, which was also influenced by the coincidental holding of the NYSC AAUP summer conference on the RIT campus the week before. Several of us who attended that meeting became aware of a pre-COVID initiative that aimed to unite faculties across Western and Central New York through a website.

At the April 12th summit, following opening remarks by Todd Sodano, chair of St. John Fisher's Faculty Assembly, and Atia Newman, chair of the RIT Faculty Senate, the group divided to discuss the meaning of effective faculty governance in today's climate and the constraints that limit it. They considered the extent to which institutions have protected academic freedom against the broad assaults of the federal government. The second morning session examined

how individual faculties can capitalize on opportunities to form internal alliances that promote more effective shared governance and foster cross-institutional collaborations.

During lunch, Paul Wilson, emeritus professor of mathematics and chair of the RIT Faculty Council in the mid-90s, reflected on his experience of how an activist faculty governance body can leverage access to institutional finances to achieve effective results when working with administration and trustees, especially concerning compensation. After Wilson's address, the discussion shifted to ways to enhance the engagement of reluctant or apathetic faculty in robust shared governance, extending to the formation of formal organizations in union-like groups.

Finally, the group discussed how to promote the ideas considered during the summit and maintain the energy generated throughout the day. The summit organizers and other faculty leaders have met several times since to plan the next steps, which include potentially revitalizing the website and using it as a means to encourage cross-institution conversations and alliances. As someone at the conference said, "Our administrations talk to each other on a regular basis. If faculty are to engage in more effective shared governance, we need to be talking to each other in a similar way."

The Executive Order on Accreditation Opens the Door for Rampant Corruption and Political Interference

President Donald Trump's executive order on accreditation is yet another attempt to dictate what is taught, learned, said, and done by college students and instructors. Threats to remove accreditors from their roles are transparent efforts to consolidate more power in the hands of the Trump administration to stifle teaching and research. These attacks aim to remove educational decision-making from educators and reshape higher education to fit an authoritarian political agenda.

Accreditation is vital in ensuring students receive a high-quality college education. However, this executive order threatens to dismantle this existing system, giving partisan politicians even greater power to shape higher education.

Accreditation took its current form in response to widespread fraud by diploma mills after the 1944 GI Bill. With the 1958 National Defense Education Act, accreditation became the formal mechanism for recognizing which institutions should be eligible to receive federal higher education funding, a system maintained in the Higher Education Act. More recently, accreditation has proven to be an essential tool for ensuring that academic institutions across the country pay careful attention to improving educational outcomes.

Accrediting agencies have shielded both students and the government from wasting money on fraudulent institutions—like Trump University—that engage in deceit and grift. Trump's executive order increases the vulnerability of both students and the government to such fraud.

Accrediting agencies have also been essential mechanisms for ensuring that academic institutions are accessible and inclusive while providing high-quality education for all students. This executive order, however, employs the administration's cruel and absurdist weaponization of antidiscrimination and civil rights law to hinder accrediting agencies from mandating that institutions take fundamental steps to ensure they are accessible to and inclusive of all students.

Additionally, by threatening to decertify existing agencies and enabling the creation of new ones, the executive order compels accreditors to either transform themselves beyond

recognition by conforming to the political demands and ideological nonsense of the administration or be replaced by new, unreliable agencies willing to follow the party line. This represents precisely the kind of partisan interference that academic accreditation is meant to prevent.

The Trump administration's claim that the executive order will "advance academic freedom, intellectual inquiry, and student learning" is patently false. When politically motivated accreditors go to war with colleges, they typically try to shut campuses down, depriving students of opportunities to grow and flourish.

State control of accreditation would create a patchwork of rules and regulations that adds confusion and inefficiencies while also creating conditions where bad actors become more emboldened to defraud students and their families.

AAUP President Todd Wolfson says, "Trump's goal is to manipulate accreditors in order to force colleges and universities to do his bidding and punish them when they resist. He is weaponizing the accreditation process to gain the leverage he seeks. This order is yet another example of the Trump administration's attempts to control American higher education. The stated goal of increasing 'intellectual diversity' is code for a partisan agenda that will muzzle faculty who do not espouse Trump's ideological agenda. The order will upend protections for students and degrade their experience on campus."

AFT President Randi Weingarten says, "Accreditation should be based on the quality of a college or university's academic standards and support for students, not on whether a politician agrees with a school or professor's ideology. That's part of what made U.S. universities the envy of the world.

"President Trump's new executive order appears to violate this. He appears to be saying that he alone can determine what our colleges can teach and what students can learn. This is a fundamental attack on free expression and free enterprise. It is a war on knowledge, and we will fight it."



Scenes from the Spring Meeting



From the President's Desk

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passed, and a reduction in funding for higher education programs to cover the federal shortfall.

Thankfully, the AAUP and AFT have been at the forefront nationally, challenging the administration's illegal actions in court and achieving victories. Unfortunately, the administration has shown a tendency to disregard court rulings it opposes. It is time for more active protests to support court decisions and signal to our elected officials that we will not tolerate illegal attacks on higher education and threats to our Constitution and democratic institutions.

At the state conference, we aim to empower our members and chapters to advocate for higher education in New York. Our spring meeting and conference provided an opportunity for statewide and regional networking. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, a group of faculty members from various Western New York institutions met the following weekend at the RIT campus—a meeting arranged prior to our state conference. That meeting was successful, and we are collaborating with that group to direct state conference resources to assist them in their efforts to uphold AAUP values of shared governance and academic freedom.

If the NYS Legislature is forced to cut higher education funding in response to federal cuts in Medicaid, we are developing a contingency plan for demonstrations across the state—please look out for updates during the summer. Starting in July, we will hold monthly Zoom meetings for chapter leaders to create more networking opportunities as we head into the next academic year. We want to hear from you so we can share successes and help mobilize resources statewide to address challenges.

I hope many of you are taking advantage of the resources and organizing spaces provided by AAUP National, including the always excellent Summer Institute. As always, the state conference has chapter development grants available; you can contact our Executive Director, Sally Dear-Healey, for information on applying.

I wish I had more positive news to share, but we are stronger together. I hope to see you at chapter leader Zooms and at our virtual fall meeting and conference.

In solidarity,

Mary Rose Kubal

Executive Director's Report

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around and fighting for academic freedom and shared governance.

Yet we know full well the fear of repercussions is real and often feels imminent. Safety nets have been removed. We see it in the news, as activists and protesters, and even bystanders are singled out and, in some cases, detained, arrested, or worse. Both the knowns and the unknowns contribute to this pervasive lack of safety, heightening our instincts to be on guard. It doesn't matter who you are or what your line of work is. We see it in people who voraciously speak up and out against injustice. We see it in people who are unable or unwilling to set and maintain healthy boundaries around working conditions, as well as for their work and personal relationships. We see it in those who, so fearful of the potential impact of sharing their true feelings, beliefs, and ideas, and even the truth...remain silent.

The reality is that we are all faced with decisions and choices about who and how we want to be in this new world order. Are we going to be "exposers" or are we going to "turn a blind eye?" (I haven't met an AAUP member yet who was willing to turn a blind eye!) At the end of the day, our choices are limited to leading, following, or doing nothing at all. No matter what decision and choices we make, we still need to be there for each other, even when our thoughts, beliefs, ideas, and actions – and our truths – may not be the same. In fact, I would argue that we need to embrace the challenges we are

facing, and instead of viewing these conflicts as a 'serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one,' we purposefully and intentionally chose to see conflict simply as a 'disconnect between ideas, feelings, etc.,' which in turn opens up the possibility of coming together for the purpose of repair and resolution.

In closing, as we consider all the challenges facing us in higher ed right now, I would like to remind you that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. As a recent (5/13) article in Chronicle Careers notes, it is a "meaningful time to reflect on the growing mental health challenges impacting our students, colleagues, and ourselves" so that we can "strengthen our understanding, build resilience, and support one another through these challenges." In turn, I invite each of you to take a few minutes to reflect on the ways in which you can bring the qualities of safety, resilience, and support to your own life and work.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if there is anything I and/or the NYSC can do to help support you as an AAUP member or as a 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. You can always reach me at sdearhealeyaaup@gmail.com or we can connect by phone (607) 656-9477.

Be well, stay safe, and in solidarity,

Sally

AAUP New York State Conference Leadership

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CUNY Council

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Collective Bargaining Council

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Steering Committee - Standing Committees

Committee A: Academic Freedom and Tenure

Irwin Yellowitz, Chair lyellowitz@aol.com

Committee on Academic Professionals

Vasiliki (Valerie) 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

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Committee on Governmental Relations

Fred Floss, Chair flossfg@buffalostate.edu

Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Accepting Applications for Chair

Committee on Retirement

Accepting Applications for Chair

Committee on Gender and Sexuality in the Academic Profession

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Regional Councils

The Long Island Council

Seeking Chair and Members

NYC-Westchester Council

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Adriel Lobello, Co-Chair rngrad@gmail.com

Lower Central Council

Seeking Chair and Members

Capital Area-Mid Hudson Council

Seeking Chair and Members

Western-Midwestern Council

Rachel O'Donnell, Chair rachel.odonnell@rochester.edu

New York State Conference Leadership

The **Administrative Committee** (AC) consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, all of which are elected officer positions.

The **Executive Council** (EC) consists of the officers of the Conference, four at-large members, the national Council members elected from the district that includes New York State, the At-Large Council members who are members of the NYS Conference, and the elected National AAUP Officers who are members of the NYS Conference. (Article III.2, Oct. 2014).

The **Steering Committee** (SC) consists of the EC and the chairs of standing NYS Conference committees and councils. (Article III.3, October 2014)
