
Report of the 2015 Annual Meeting

From June 10 to 14, 2015, the AAUP hosted its 101st Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Concurrent with the annual meeting was the AAUP Conference on the State of Higher Education, which included plenary addresses and presentations on current issues confronting the academic community. The AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress also held its annual business meeting in conjunction with the AAUP annual meeting.

Keynote speeches at the conference focused on shared governance, the AAUP's history, and the attacks on public education. The opening plenary speaker was Larry Gerber, professor emeritus of history at Auburn University, former vice president of the AAUP, and a former chair of the AAUP's Committee on College and University Governance. Gerber spoke about the history of the faculty's role in governance, noting that the early decades of American higher education were characterized by strong presidents and powerful, intrusive governing boards. Over the twentieth century, however, a consensus emerged that the faculty should hold primary responsibility for academic decision making. That consensus is now threatened by developments such as the "corporate" model for higher education, tight budgets, erosion of the idea of higher education as a public good, and explosive growth in contingent appointments.

The Friday plenary luncheon speaker was Hans-Joerg Tiede, a professor of computer science at Illinois Wesleyan University and chair of the Committee on the History of the Association. Tiede's presentation, "Academic Unrest: Governance, Unionization, and the First Red Scare," focused on the formative early years of the AAUP's history. Tiede, who currently serves as chair of the Assembly of State Conferences and recently edited the eleventh edition of the AAUP's *Policy Documents and Reports* (commonly known as the Redbook), recently completed a book on the AAUP's founding and early history, which will be published later this year.

Saturday's luncheon celebrated this year's award recipients and provided an opportunity for the Association to honor its fifty-year members for their five decades of continuous membership.

The Saturday centennial banquet featured an address by Juan González, columnist at the *New York Daily News* and cohost of *Democracy Now!* In his address, González discussed the ongoing attacks on public education at all levels and offered his perspective on the state of education reporting. The banquet was followed by a gala celebration of the AAUP's centennial.

Photographs from the annual meeting and the higher education conference are available at <https://www.flickr.com/aaup>.

AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress

Richard F. Griffin Jr., general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), was the featured speaker at the AAUP-CBC banquet. Prior to becoming general counsel, Griffin served as an NLRB board member. He has served on the board of directors of the AFL-CIO Lawyers Coordinating Committee since 1994. Griffin spoke about recent developments at the NLRB that relate to faculty members and other employees at higher education institutions.

Irene Mulvey, professor of mathematics and computer science at Fairfield University, received this year's Marilyn Sternberg Award. Mulvey was recognized for her leadership and unwavering support of her fellow faculty members as well as her ability to increase her chapter's membership and spearhead several highly effective organizing campaigns. The Sternberg Award recognizes the AAUP members who "best demonstrate concern for human rights, courage, persistence, political foresight, imagination, and collective bargaining skills."

The results of the AAUP-CBC election are printed elsewhere in this issue in "Officers and Committees of the AAUP-CBC, 2015–16."

Capitol Hill Day

On June 11, AAUP members visited Capitol Hill to discuss legislation affecting higher education with their senators and representatives. This year's discussions focused on access, affordability, and protections for college students. The day ended with a reception on Capitol Hill, where discussions continued between AAUP members and congressional staff.

Censure Actions

The annual meeting voted to place the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Southern Maine, and Felician College on the Association's list of censured administrations. The annual meeting also voted to remove Yeshiva University from the list of censured administrations. Censure by the AAUP informs the academic community that the administration of an institution has not adhered to generally recognized principles of academic freedom and tenure. With these actions, fifty-six institutions are currently on the censure list.

The *Report of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, 2014–15*, included elsewhere in this issue, contains the committee's statements to the annual meeting on the imposition and removal of censure.

Media Awards

The Iris Molotsky Award for Excellence in Coverage of Higher Education was given to journalists Mina Kimes and Michael Smith of *Bloomberg News* for their article "Education Empire." Kimes and Smith's piece takes readers behind the scenes to show how Laureate Education, Inc., employed tactics banned in the United States to lure students in developing countries to enroll in its expensive and overcrowded for-profit colleges.

The AAUP presented the Martin D. Snyder Award for Excellence in Student Coverage of Higher Education to Sarah Brown and Hayley Fowler for their story "Nontenured Faculty Hope for Better Working Conditions." The story ran in the University of North Carolina's *Daily Tar Heel* on September 24, 2014. More information about the winners and links to their articles is at <http://www.aaup.org/media-release/education-empire-non-tenured-faculty-hope-better-working-conditions-win-awards>.

Ralph S. Brown Award for Shared Governance

The Gustavus Adolphus College board of trustees, including president Rebecca M. Bergman, received the 2015 Ralph S. Brown Award for Shared Governance.

The college's faculty senate, chaired by professor Max Hailperin, nominated the board for having "dramatically revitalized the college's previously strained shared governance culture, at the same time documenting elements of the process, which could serve as a model for other institutions facing similar challenges." The Brown Award is given to American college or university administrators or trustees "in recognition of an outstanding contribution to shared governance." It was established in 1998 in memory of Ralph S. Brown, who served as AAUP president and general counsel and headed many AAUP committees during his forty-four years of service to the Association. The award is not conferred annually; the Association reserves the distinction for those occasions when some accomplishment in the area of shared governance is identified as so outstanding as to merit being singled out.

Georgina M. Smith Award

Barbara Hopkins, professor of economics at Wright State University, was selected as the 2015 recipient of the AAUP's Georgina M. Smith Award. During her time as grievance officer at Wright State, Hopkins has worked tirelessly to document, report, and remedy troubling patterns of racial bias in promotion and tenure in the university's College of Nursing and Health. Through Hopkins's efforts, three faculty members successfully won their appeals before the university-wide tenure and promotion appeals committee and received tenure.

The award was established in 1979 to honor the memory of Georgina M. Smith, a professor at Rutgers University, who was a committed feminist, an AAUP leader, and a strong supporter of her faculty union. The award is presented "to a person who has provided exceptional leadership in the past year in improving the status of academic women or in advancing collective bargaining and through that work has improved the profession in general." Rather than grant these awards annually, the Association reserves the distinction for those occasions when the judges have identified a particular candidate as so outstanding as to merit being singled out.

Assembly of State Conferences Awards

This year's William S. Tacey Award, which recognizes outstanding service to a state conference over a number of years, was given to John Harms of Missouri State University. Harms was recognized for his service as vice president of the Missouri conference of the AAUP.

John McNay, a professor of history at the University of Cincinnati and president of the Ohio AAUP conference, won the Al Sumberg Award, which is given to an individual or group to recognize excellent work in lobbying for higher education issues.

The Western Michigan University AAUP chapter was the recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Chapter Website Award.

AAUP Foundation Travel Grants

The AAUP Foundation made five grants to support participation in the AAUP annual meeting.

Konheim Travel Fund Grants are for travel-related expenses incurred by chapters engaged in advancing the Beatrice G. Konheim Award criteria, which are to advance the AAUP's objectives in academic freedom, student rights and freedoms, the status of academic women, the elimination of discrimination against minorities, or the establishment of equal opportunity for members of colleges and universities. The Konheim Travel Fund winners for 2015 were David Nalbene of the Purdue University, Calumet, AAUP chapter; Elizabeth Brannon of the University of Rhode Island Graduate Student Association; and Eva Raimon of the University of Southern Maine AAUP chapter.

Hopper Travel Fund Grants are for individuals attending their first AAUP annual meeting. Candidates may be nominated by either a chapter or a conference. The Hopper Travel Fund winners for 2015 were Kathryn Kuhn of Saint Louis University (nominated by the Missouri AAUP conference) and Troy Smith of Tennessee Technological University (nominated by the Tennessee AAUP conference).

Resolutions and Proposal

The 101st Annual Meeting approved two resolutions: one expressing concerns about proposals by the Wisconsin state legislature to weaken academic freedom and shared governance in the University of Wisconsin system and another honoring AAUP associate general secretary Jordan E. Kurland for his fifty years of service as a member of the AAUP's professional staff.

The first resolution, which concerns the Wisconsin state legislature's recent proposals, reads as follows:

By this resolution, the 101st Annual Meeting of the American Association of University Professors adds its grave concerns to those currently being voiced throughout the world of higher learning regarding the proposals for action by the Wisconsin legislature later this

month. The University of Wisconsin's special reputation for independence in seeking the truth dates back to 1894, when its governing board, resisting pressures to dismiss a famous dissenting professor, expressed its belief that the university "should ever encourage that continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which the truth can be found."

The current proposals threaten to discourage what the nineteenth-century board so eloquently encouraged. They require the legislature to "delete current law specifying that the faculty of each institution be vested with responsibility for the immediate governance of such institution." They allow the governing board to terminate tenured faculty appointments in the event of "a program or budget decision regarding program discontinuance, curtailment, modification, or redirection, instead of when a financial exigency exists as under current law." Provision after provision is at odds with the AAUP's *Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure* and its *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*.

As AAUP president Rudy Fichtenbaum stated in a letter to the chair of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents and the president of the University of Wisconsin System, "These changes in tenure and due process and the \$250 million proposed cut to the UW System amount to a direct attack on higher education as a public good."

The Annual Meeting calls on faculty members in the University of Wisconsin System and their faculty colleagues throughout Wisconsin to work with students, alumni, and community leaders to organize resistance to these proposals and to demand that they be rejected. We also call on the regents and administration of the University of Wisconsin System publicly to state their opposition to these proposals and to resist their implementation if they are approved.

Beyond Wisconsin, the Annual Meeting calls on faculty members throughout the United States to support our Wisconsin colleagues to ensure that similar proposals do not gain traction elsewhere.

Should these proposals become law, the Annual Meeting also calls on the leadership of the AAUP to consider appropriate responses to this attack, including the organization of faculty resistance.

The second resolution, honoring Jordan E. Kurland, reads as follows:

Associate General Secretary Jordan E. Kurland joined the Association's staff on June 16, 1965, having taken a leave of absence from his tenured appointment at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The year 2015 thus marks not only the AAUP's centennial but also Jordan's fiftieth anniversary as a member of the Association's professional staff.

For most of that half century up to the present, he has presided over the Association's major case work in academic freedom and tenure, despite having officially stepped down fifteen years ago as director of staff for Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure.

He has played a role in more than 90 percent of the case investigations conducted in the Association's history, among them the 2007 investigation of five New Orleans universities after Hurricane Katrina, a major undertaking for which he was the responsible staff member. He has toiled incessantly to accomplish censure removal at scores of institutions, including all four of the universities censured as a result of the Katrina investigation and, at this annual meeting, the thirty-three-year-old censure at Yeshiva University.

He has been instrumental in maintaining the excellence that has characterized AAUP policy statements and reports on academic freedom, tenure, and governance, notably key sections of the *Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure*, which have been widely adopted in American higher education.

He has carried out these responsibilities with relentless dedication, zeal, and even joy, seeking no recognition for himself and putting to good use his powerful intellect, nearly photographic memory, remarkable creativity and flexibility, pointed eloquence, keen editorial skills, and encyclopedic knowledge of the AAUP's history.

He has gained the affection, respect, and admiration of members of the AAUP's staff and leadership with whom he has worked closely over the years—including many whom he mentored.

During the past fifty years, Jordan has contributed, quietly and behind the scenes, more than any other individual to the AAUP's core endeavor of developing and implementing

recommended standards on academic freedom, tenure, and governance.

The American Association of University Professors therefore takes great pleasure in honoring Jordan E. Kurland for his fifty years of service on the Association's professional staff and, in particular, for his unrivalled contribution during the preceding half century to the Association's historic mission of advancing the "standards, ideals, and welfare of the profession."

The 101st annual meeting also approval a proposal in support of the American Federation of Musicians. The proposal reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the American Federation of Musicians (AFM) was established and chartered by the American Federation of Labor in 1896; WHEREAS, the American Federation of Musicians is the largest organization in the world representing the interests of professional musicians; WHEREAS, solidarity is a critical component of the labor movement;

WHEREAS, the American Association of University Professors supports the principles of solidarity and hiring union labor whenever practicable; and

WHEREAS, musical entertainment is used at some AAUP national and chapter events;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the American Association of University Professors shall show solidarity with the American Federation of Musicians; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the AAUP shall and shall recommend that all AAUP local chapters, when using musical entertainment at their functions, make every effort possible to hire union musicians who have active membership in the American Federation of Musicians and utilize contracts approved by the appropriate AFM local when hiring union musicians.

Resolutions are expressions of opinion by a meeting and do not constitute legislative action of the Association. They generally concern subjects of general interest to the academic profession and the public. Proposals concern the internal organization of the Association and the Association's activities; if a proposal is adopted by the annual meeting and concurred in by the Council, the action it proposes becomes the action of the AAUP. ■

Fifty-Year AAUP Members

John Q. Adams
Millsaps College

O. Roger Anderson
Columbia University

Victor G. Badding
Manhattan College

Edward J. Behrman
Ohio State University

Geneva G. Belford
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Leslie Z. Benet
University of California,
San Francisco

Charles L. Brewer
Furman University

Frederick P. Brooks
University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jane L. Buck
Delaware State University

John F. Bulrough
Fairleigh Dickinson
University

Janice A. Casey
Marist College

Eloise N. Clark
Daytona State College

Charles Courtney
Drew University

Cynthia M. Dantzie
Long Island University,
Brooklyn Campus

Richard O. Davies
University of Pennsylvania

Michael D'Innocenzo
Hofstra University

Hans Gesund
University of Kentucky

Herbert E. Gishlick
Rider University

W. Lee Hansen
University of Wisconsin-
Madison

Alan Hausman
City University of New
York Hunter College

William A. Howard
University of Illinois at
Chicago

Daniel B. Howell
Nebraska Wesleyan
University

Louise M. Jefferson
Wayne State University

Thomas M. Keefe
Saint Joseph's University

Thomas C. Kipps
California State University,
Fresno

Thomas S. Korllos
Kent State University

Earl T. Kumfer
University of Saint
Francis-Fort Wayne

Joseph S. Larson
University of
Massachusetts Amherst

Roy E. Licklider
Rutgers University

Ivan Lobay
University of New Haven

Donald W. Loveland
Duke University

Marion B. Lucas
Western Kentucky
University

Hugh J. Martin
Ohio University

Arden E. Melzer
University of Pittsburgh

John W. Meyer
Stanford University

Laura H. Miller
Indiana University of
Pennsylvania

Mary-Emily Miller
University of Delaware

Sidney A. Mook
Michigan State University

Robert L. Patten
Rice University

John F. Peterson
University of Rhode Island

Edward L. Richards
Norwich University

James T. Richardson
University of Nevada,
Reno

Sarah Anne Robinson
Springfield, Illinois

Allan J. Rosen
South Orange, New Jersey

Bernard Rosen
Ohio State University

Rudolf J. Siebert
Western Michigan
University

Ivar Stakgold
University of Delaware

Bertram L. Strieb
La Salle University

James Waddell
Rancho Mirage, California

Herbert C. Winnik
Saint Mary's College of
Maryland

Philip K. Wion
University of Pittsburgh

Wayne C. Wolsey
Macalester College

Donald L. Woodrow
Hobart William Smith
Colleges