

Carl Cuttita, Communications, Union County College

Access 2010; Curriculum Committee 2004-2008;

Candidate Biography

Education: B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1986, C.U.N.Y. Baccalaureate Program, C.U.N.Y. Graduate Center; M.A., *summa cum laude* 1989, College of Staten Island, C.U.N.Y.; Ed. D., Rowan University, in progress.

Appointments: College of Staten Island, C.U.N.Y.: Adjunct Instructor, 1989-1990; Union County College: Instructor to Associate Professor, 1990-Present.

Areas of Research: Film, popular culture, media concentration.

Governance and Service: Union County College: *Leadership Positions*-Coordinator-Communications Programs 1996- Present; Coordinator- Game Design Creation Program 2004-Present; Founding Co-Chair- Academic Technology Committee 1993-1998; Statewide NJ-Edge Distance Learning Academic Advisory Board Representative 1996-2005; Founding Co-Chair- Teaching and Learning with Technology Roundtable 1997-2000; Co-Chair- Web Access Policy Working Group 1999-2000; Chair- Technology Plan Writing Group- Web Access; Corresponding Secretary, Faculty Executive Committee, 2006-2010, At-Large 2010-Present; *Committee Membership*- Student Affairs Committee 1991-1995; Academic Technology Committee 2000-2005; Teaching and Learning with Technology Roundtable 2001-2010; Honors Program Committee 2002-2004; Technology Plan Writing Group- Web Access 2004, Student

AAUP Involvement: Member since 1990. *Chapter:* Corresponding Secretary, 2001-2008; Vice President, 2008-2010; President, 2010-Present; Bargaining Team Research Committee, 2003; Bargaining Team, 2009; *National:* Council- District VII, 2010-2011 Committee on Community Colleges, 2002-Present. Delegate or Alternate at the AAUP Annual Meeting, 2001-2006, 2009-2010. In recent years, I worked with members of the Suffolk Affiliated Faculty Chapter of the AAUP to create, pro bono, a website to facilitate communication with their membership during their long, but ultimately successful struggle to organize a bargaining unit.

Candidate Statement

Despite the fact that higher education in America is one of the single most successful and enduring institutions left standing in our democracy, it is beset on all sides by its detractors and critics. The very politicians who denounce “big government” press for ever more invasive and intrusive control over what is taught in the college classroom, how it is taught and how that “outcome” is assessed. Accrediting bodies that once served the noble mission of safeguarding and insulating the academy from undue political influence now are pressed into service as the herald of these forces, promising that any institution that does not take the carrot and comply, will surely find the stick far less savory. Distempered cries for the abolition of tenure rise from the Statehouse to the school board. Calls for the end of this time-honored system for the protection

of the rights of due process, academic freedom and the stewardship of our disciplines and curricula, a system poorly understood by those outside of the academy, requires us to stand once again for the values and purpose of our profession. Once more, anti-intellectual sentiments have found voice in a bully populism bent on using the rhetoric of reform to obscure their actual intentions to advance the full privatization of the public good of education.

Now is the time for us to stand together, climb the tower and ring the bell in defense of the academic freedom, professional standards, and disciplinary integrity that will vouchsafe for our students an education that will prepare them for a future of real promise, real careers and citizenship in a real and thriving democracy.

My work with the AAUP over the past decade has proven to me that when we gather together and speak clearly in one voice in defense of academic freedom and the autonomy of faculty in the classroom, we are a strong force against the cacophony of critics and detractors that serve to undermine the essential, democratizing institution that the academy can and must be for the good of our country and our world.