

**Richard DeWitt**, Philosophy, Fairfield University

### Candidate Biography

#### **Education**

Ph.D. 1988, M.A. 1984 (Philosophy)  
Ohio State University

B.S. 1980 (Biology and Philosophy)  
University of Idaho

#### **Areas of Specialization**

Logic; History and Philosophy of Science

#### **Appointments (Fairfield University)**

Professor, 2006 to present  
Associate Professor, 1995-2005  
Assistant Professor, 1989-1994

#### **AAUP Conference Presentations**

Workshop Presenter, 2010 AAUP Summer Institute, San Diego, CA (with Irene Mulvey, Fairfield University)  
“Building, Strengthening, and Maintaining an Effective Advocacy Chapter”

Workshop Presenter and Panelist, Mid-Atlantic AAUP Conference on Leadership Skills, Villanova University, August 2010  
Workshop (with Irene Mulvey): “What Does a Strong Advocacy Chapter Look Like?”  
Panel Discussion with Irene Mulvey, Harriet Gaddy (New Jersey Conference), and Purification Martinez (ASC): “Developing and Maintaining Effective Chapter Leadership”

Workshop Presenter, Ohio AAUP State Conference Annual Meeting, April 2010 (with Jennifer Nichols, AAUP National Office) “Increasing Faculty Presence in Campus Affairs”

Workshop Presenter, Ohio AAUP State Conference Annual Meeting, April 2009

(with Kathy Nantz, Susan Rakowitz, and Irene Mulvey) “Reflections from an Advocacy Chapter”

#### **FWC/AAUP Service (local chapter)**

President: 2010 to present; 1997-2000

Treasurer: 2005-2010

Executive and/or Steering Committee: all years but two from 1991 to present

#### **Governance and Service, Fairfield University**

Academic Council (Faculty Senate): 1992-1994; 1997-1999; 2003-2007; 2009 to present

Academic Council Executive Committee: 2003 to present (except 2007-2008)

General Faculty Secretary: Fall 2008

Chair, College of Arts and Sciences: 2006-2008

Department Chair: 1998; 2003-2007

#### *Select Faculty Committees*

Committee on Committees: 2010 to present

Search Committee, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs: 2008-2009

Search Committee, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences: 2007-2008

Steering Committee, College of Arts and Sciences: 2005-2008

Committee on Conference with the Board of Trustees: 2004-2007

Rank and Tenure Committee: 1998 to 2002

Faculty Salary Committee (negotiates salary/benefits with administration): 1991-1994; 1996-1999; Chair, 1997-1998

### Candidate Statement

I have been an active member and leader of our local chapter since we first formed 20 years ago, serving on the chapter’s executive and/or steering committee almost every year since we formed, serving in a variety of elected officer positions including multiple terms as chapter president, serving on our

faculty committee that negotiates salaries and benefits with the administration, fighting to promote and preserve an AAUP-modeled system of shared governance, and in general working to articulate and promote sound academic principles and practices.

My commitment to our chapter and to the AAUP is easy to explain: I am convinced that the strength of any university is rooted in the strength of its faculty, and the strength of the faculty is in turn rooted in its ability to articulate and promote sound academic principles and practices. And it is the AAUP that for almost 100 years has been the body responsible for articulating and promoting and fighting for these practices and policies that are essential for faculty and universities to function as they should.

Our local chapter is an exceptionally strong advocacy chapter, with over 70% of our faculty as members, including almost all the younger faculty. We have a system of governance that closely follows the AAUP's model; we have a contractual commitment to academic freedom and academic tenure taken directly from the AAUP's statement; we have a contract negotiated each year and shared by all faculty that guarantees average compensation will be at or above the AAUP's 95<sup>th</sup> percentile; we have a good benefits package; and more.

None of this has come for free, and I and other chapter leaders have fought hard over the years to promote, establish, and preserve the sound academic principles and practices articulated by the AAUP. In doing so, I and other chapter leaders have learned a great deal about what works and what doesn't in promoting these core AAUP principles. I think this experience will be a valuable resource, and will enable me to contribute in moving forward the important work of the Council and of the AAUP.