

Joel W. Russell, Chemistry, Oakland University

Candidate Biography

After completing an A.B. degree in chemistry at Northwestern University, I obtained a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of California Berkeley. I advanced from Assistant to Professor at Oakland University after a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Minnesota. I have held visiting appointments at the Australian National University, Southampton University (UK), the University of Michigan, and Valencia University (Spain). My 100+ research publications and presentations are in the areas of molecular spectroscopy, spectro-electrochemistry, and the development/assessment of visualization software for teaching/learning general chemistry. For four years I held interim administrative positions as Dean of Health Science including one year as Dean of Graduate Studies. I have served on the Oakland University Senate for many years including three terms on its Steering Committee. I have served/chaired many of the most important Senate committees as well as two terms on the CAS promotions committee and four terms on the university promotions committee.

My AAUP experience began with service on four negotiating teams during the first decade of collective bargaining at Oakland. During this period I served on the chapter Executive Committee with one term as secretary and another as president. Later I served once as chief negotiator and on the 2006 negotiating team. In 1999 and 2001 I was again elected chapter president. After serving as past-president I served three years as grievance officer before being elected in 2007 to a fourth term as president. From 2000 to present I have served on the

Michigan Conference Executive Board—five years as vice president, four years as president and currently as past president. I served on the CBC Executive Board from 2006-2010 and on the government relations committee and general secretary search committee. I am completing my first term on the Council.

Candidate Statement

The next three years will encompass a critical period of transition for the AAUP during which its ability to remain the dominant voice for the American professoriate will be severely tested. The decline in non-collective bargaining membership must be replaced by a substantial growth in such membership to maintain our credibility as the unifying professional association for higher education faculty. Faculty from community colleges through research universities should support collective bargaining as an honorable tool to protect with strength academic freedom, tenure, and shared governance in the face of the “corporatization” of American higher education.

Within the next year the national officers and council members will implement a new formal structure stressing the AAUP as a professional association but with enhanced capabilities to support those engaged in collective bargaining and enhanced ability to raise funds to support the profession. The need for the Council to move beyond past divisions and work together to strengthen all components is essential. The oversight role of the officers and Council will be critical to assist the General Secretary and national staff move into growth mode. Those chapters and conferences with strengths in numbers, leadership and resources can assist in developing both advocacy and new CB chapters as has my chapter and the Michigan

Conference. Until far more faculty realize that the future of their profession cannot rest solely on disciplinary associations but needs a strong AAUP speaking for faculty in all disciplines, shared governance will continue to be eroded by administrative appointed task forces and outsourcing of faculty duties to the lowest paid term-contract instructors and at-will administrative professionals.

I am honored to have been nominated for a second Council term. Whether you elect Professor Zagarell or me, you will have with Professors Bunsis, Moeller, Parrish and Teahan dedicated Michigan council members representing collective bargaining and advocacy chapters from small to very large. If elected I shall work diligently for the common good of the professoriate and to make the twenty-first century AAUP as significant as the twentieth century AAUP was in defining and defending our profession.