
Report of the 2016 Annual Conference

From June 15 to 19, 2016, the AAUP hosted its Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education, which included plenary addresses and presentations on current issues confronting the academic community. The 102nd Annual Meeting of the AAUP and the regular business meeting of the AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress were held in conjunction with the conference in Washington, DC.

Keynote speeches at the conference focused on racial and social justice in higher education. The Friday plenary luncheon speaker was Shaun Harper, professor and executive director of the Center for



Shaun Harper

the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Harper based his presentation, “Race and Racism in the College Classroom,” on responses from friends and fellow faculty members to his Facebook post asking what he should tell “a captive audience of professors about race and racism in college classrooms.” He discussed the impact insensitive comments and other microaggressions have on students, shared his perspective on the value of trigger warnings that alert students to material they may find disturbing, and urged faculty members to address racism when it surfaces in classroom discussions rather than smoothing over tensions.

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 plenary banquet featured an address by William P. Jones, a professor of history

at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. In his address, “Public Servants and the Public Good,” Jones discussed how professors and other public servants can protect their own interests in decent wages and working conditions while also advancing the public good. He focused on the answers labor history provides to this challenge.

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



William P. Jones

AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress

Risa L. Lieberwitz, AAUP general counsel, was the featured speaker at the AAUP-CBC dinner. Lieberwitz is a professor of labor and employment law in the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations. In her presentation, “Surveying the Legal Landscape for Organizing and Collective Bargaining in Higher Education,” Lieberwitz spoke about recent developments in the US Supreme Court and the NLRB that relate to faculty members, graduate students, and other employees at higher education institutions.



Risa L. Lieberwitz

Pamela S. Ecker, a professor of technical and professional communication and AAUP chapter president at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, received this year's Marilyn Sternberg Award. The Sternberg Award recognizes the AAUP members who "best demonstrate concern for human rights, courage, persistence, political foresight, imagination, and collective bargaining skills." Ecker was recognized for her long history of leadership in her chapter, which she has served as president for twenty of its twenty-eight years. She worked tirelessly to revitalize the chapter and to organize a collective bargaining unit in a hostile antiunion environment, and she has continued to play a vital role in maintaining a high rate of faculty membership in the chapter (consistently over 95 percent of the faculty) and in negotiating contracts.

During its regular business meeting, the AAUP-CBC approved constitutional amendments that simplify the nomination process, modify the method for paying dues prior to an election, and remove a provision that is no longer applicable. The revised constitution is available at <https://www.aaupcbc.org/about/constitution-0>.

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

Capitol Hill Day

On June 16, AAUP members visited Capitol Hill to discuss legislation affecting higher education with their senators and representatives. This year's discussions focused on issues such as the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, concerns about prior learning assessment and competency-based education programs, and the protection of high-quality and faculty-led education. Members of the government relations committee also met with the deputy assistant secretary for higher education programs at the Department of Education, James T. Minor. Dr. Minor, a former faculty member and past contributor to *Academe*, was receptive to the committee's suggestions about including greater faculty input in the department's decision making. The day ended with a reception at the Rayburn House Office Building, where discussions continued between AAUP members and congressional staff.

Censure Actions

Delegates to the annual meeting voted to place the College of Saint Rose (New York) and the University



Capitol Hill Day

of Missouri (Columbia) on the Association's list of censured administrations. The annual meeting also voted to remove from the censure list two institutions that had taken the necessary steps to address the AAUP's outstanding concerns: Grove City College (Pennsylvania) and Metropolitan Community College (Missouri). Grove City College had been on the censure list since 1963, longer than any other institution. The annual meeting did not approve a conditional removal of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from its censure list.



AAUP president Rudy Fichtenbaum

With these actions, fifty-six institutions are now on the censure list. 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.

Delegates to the annual meeting voted to place Union County College (New Jersey) and the University of Iowa on the Association's list of sanctioned

institutions. The annual meeting also voted to remove Lindenwood University (Missouri) from the list. Sanction by the AAUP informs the academic community of infringements of generally accepted governance standards after investigations reveal serious departures from those standards by the administration or governing board.

The *Report of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, 2015–16* and the *Report of the Committee on College and University Governance, 2015–16*, included elsewhere in this issue, contain the committees' statements to the annual meeting on the imposition and removal of censure and sanction.

Media Awards

The AAUP presented the Iris Molotsky Award for Excellence in Coverage of Higher Education to journalists Jon Marcus of the *Hechinger Report* and Holly K. Hacker of the *Dallas Morning News* for their article “The Rich-Poor Divide on America’s College Campuses is Getting Wider, Fast,” which appeared in the *Hechinger Report* and the *Huffington Post*. Comparing two colleges in the same city—a private, liberal arts college and a public community college—Marcus and Hacker’s piece examines a higher education system that perpetuates poverty and privilege. More information about the winners and links to their article are at <https://www.aaup.org/news/molotsky-award>.



Jon Marcus

The AAUP presented the Martin D. Snyder Award for Excellence in Student Coverage of Higher Education to Ryan Golden and Rebecca Schisler for their story “Mount President’s Attempt to Improve Retention Rate Included Seeking Dismissal of 20–25 First-Year Students” in the *Mountain Echo*, a student newspaper at Mount Saint Mary’s University in Maryland. It provided details about a student survey that was part of a retention plan introduced by the university’s then president Simon Newman, who later resigned after much controversy following his reference to struggling undergraduates as “cuddly bunnies” who should be drowned or shot.

Georgina M. Smith Award

Deepa Kumar, associate professor of media studies at Rutgers University, and Deanna Wood, associate professor on the University of New Hampshire library faculty, were selected as recipients of the AAUP’s 2016 Georgina M. Smith Award. Professor Kumar has championed greater participation of junior faculty, and especially women of color, in union membership and made gender and race issues central to bargaining. Professor Wood has advanced the art of collective bargaining, improved procedures for grievances, worked for gender equity and antidiscrimination in contract language, and gained a strong paid parental leave policy for faculty members at her institution.

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 particular candidates 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 Martin Kich of Wright State University. Kich was recognized for his service as vice president of the Ohio conference of the AAUP.

Steve Anthony of Georgia State University and the Georgia 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 York College of Pennsylvania AAUP chapter was the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Chapter Website Award. The New York AAUP conference received the 2016 Outstanding Conference Website Award and the Outstanding Conventional Style Conference Newsletter Award.

AAUP Foundation Travel Awards

The Konheim Travel Fund Grant is awarded by the AAUP Foundation for travel-related expenses incurred by chapters engaged in promoting 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 awardees for 2016 were Carolyn Fridley of the Southeastern Oklahoma State University AAUP chapter and Tommy Lucas of the Saint Louis University AAUP chapter.

The Foundation's 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 awardees for 2016 were John Wood of the University of Central Oklahoma (nominated by the Oklahoma AAUP conference) and Steve Anthony of Georgia State University (nominated by the Georgia AAUP conference).

Resolution and Proposal

The 102nd Annual Meeting approved one resolution and one proposal.

The resolution marks the fiftieth anniversary of the *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities* and affirms the Association's steadfast commitment to the principles and standards articulated therein. It reads as follows:

From 1958 to 1964, Committee T on College and University Government issued a series of draft statements of principles on faculty participation in college and university government. Under the leadership of committee chair and Yale University law professor Ralph S. Brown Jr., and with notable encouragement from Logan Wilson, the president of the American Council on Education, the initial work of the committee led to cooperative efforts in 1963, first with the ACE and then with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. The goal was, in the words of Professor Brown, "to describe, delimit, and recommend the appropriate spheres of faculty, of presidents and other senior administrative officers, and of governing boards in college and university government." These efforts culminated in the *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*. This jointly formulated statement,



The 102nd Annual Meeting

with its call for shared effort among the different components of institutional government and its specification of areas of primary responsibility for governing boards, administrations, and faculties, remains the Association's central policy document on academic governance. While the ACE and AGB commended the *Statement on Government* to their members, the Council of the AAUP adopted it in October 1966, and the Fifty-Third Annual Meeting endorsed it in April 1967. In commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the formulation of the *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*, the 102nd Annual Meeting affirms the Association's steadfast commitment to the principles and standards articulated therein.

The 102nd Annual Meeting also approved a proposal to the AAUP Council to establish a committee to study and make recommendations on the topic of how colleges and universities can best address climate change. (The Council subsequently voted to establish such a committee.)

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

Joseph M. Betz
Villanova University

Blair F. Bigelow
Suffolk University

Mercedes Broussard
Southern University
and Agricultural and
Mechanical College

Steven M. Cahn
City University of New
York Graduate Center

Quentin Cook
University of Wyoming

Edward S. Cooper
University of Pennsylvania

Edna L. Davis
Elizabeth City State
University

Norman Ende
University of Medicine and
Dentistry of New Jersey

David A. Fabianic
University of Central
Florida

Daniel Fallon
University of Maryland
College Park

Stephen L. Finner
University of Vermont

W. Beall Fowler
Lehigh University

Stephen B. Goldberg
Northwestern University

Mary W. Gray
American University

Stanley M. Greenwald
New York Institute of
Technology–Old Westbury

Richard Guilfoyle
Monmouth University

Richard F. Gundy
Rutgers University–New
Brunswick

Lawrence L. Habermehl
Lee, Massachusetts

Robert S. Haller
University of Nebraska–
Lincoln

Fred Hillier
Stanford University

William M. Johnson
California State University,
Long Beach

William H. C. Joiner
University of Cincinnati

Barry R. Komisaruk
Rutgers University–
Newark

Lloyd S. Landa
New York University

Joseph M. Landesberg
Adelphi University

Sarah N. Lawall
University of
Massachusetts Amherst

David E. Lee
University of Tennessee

**John Ellis van Courtland
Moon**
Fitchburg State University

Paul W. Purdom
Indiana University
Bloomington

Rae F. Robinson
City University of New
York Hunter College

Jack E. Rossmann
Macalester College

Robert W. Schmidt
North Newton, Kansas

Benjamin M. Shieber
Louisiana State University
and Agricultural and
Mechanical College

Sheldon W. Simon
Arizona State University

William C. Strieder
University of Notre Dame

Joseph B. Trahern
University of Tennessee

James S. Uleman
New York University

Warren T. Zemke
Wartburg College