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# Report of the 2018 Annual Conference

From June 13 to 17, 2018, in Arlington, Virginia, the AAUP hosted its Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education. The 104th Annual Meeting of the AAUP and the regular business meeting of the AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress were held in conjunction with the conference.

This year's conference featured a series of sessions on free speech on campus—an issue that has become a focus of contentious debate and increased media scrutiny during the past year. Presenters and panelists explored the complexities of campus free speech through sessions on student press freedom, hate speech, campus free-speech legislation, the relation of free speech to academic freedom, and a range of other topics.



Nancy MacLean

The Friday plenary luncheon speaker was Nancy MacLean, the William H. Chafe Professor of History and Public Policy at Duke University and the author, most recently, of *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America*, a finalist for the National Book Award. In her keynote address, “The Origins of the Radical Right's Attack on Higher Education and Democracy—and What We Can Do About It,” Professor MacLean discussed the broader agenda of conservative groups

working to undermine and exert influence over higher education. She argued that the Koch Foundation's support for radical redistricting, voter ID laws, and privatization of public education and other resources—alongside efforts to limit the power of labor unions and trial lawyers—is part of a coordinated attack on American democratic institutions.

The awards and recognition luncheon on Saturday provided an occasion for the Association to celebrate this year's award recipients and to honor its fifty-year members.

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

## AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress

The AAUP-CBC held its regular business meeting on Thursday evening. The results of the AAUP-CBC election are printed elsewhere in this issue under “Officers and Committees of the AAUP-CBC.”

At the AAUP-CBC dinner on Thursday, Martin M. Kich, professor of English at Wright State University's Lake Campus, was presented with the Marilyn Sternberg Award. The Sternberg Award recognizes AAUP members who “demonstrate concern for human rights, courage, persistence, political foresight, imagination, and collective bargaining skills.” Kich was chosen for the award in recognition of his years of outstanding service to Wright State's AAUP chapter—as an elected leader and as a critical member of the chapter's negotiating team in a difficult financial and political environment for collective bargaining—as well as to the Ohio AAUP conference, the national AAUP, and the AAUP-CBC.

Risa Lieberwitz, professor of labor and employment law in the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations and general counsel of the AAUP, was the featured speaker at the AAUP-CBC dinner. In her keynote address, “Fighting for Our Rights Today, Building Our Strength for Tomorrow,” Professor Lieberwitz analyzed the current political attacks on

a trilogy of progressive forces: intellectual activity and dissent; organized labor; and social movements for racial, gender, and class-based equality. Higher education has become a particular target of attacks because these progressive forces thrive through faculty academic freedom in teaching, research, and extramural speech; through faculty collective action in shared governance and unionization; and in gender and ethnic studies programs and campus activism in support of social movements for equality, including the sanctuary and immigrant rights movements. As the AAUP continues to fight for these fundamental rights and values, Lieberwitz concluded, “We are on the right side of history.”

### Censure and Sanction Actions

Delegates to the annual meeting voted to place the University of Nebraska–Lincoln on the Association’s list of censured administrations. The annual meeting also voted to remove Stillman College from the



Henry Reichman, chair of Committee A

censure list and the University of Iowa from the sanction 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; sanction informs the academic community that an institution has infringed standards of academic governance.

Censure and sanction are lifted after an institution takes the necessary steps to address the AAUP’s outstanding concerns.

The “Report of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, 2017–18,” and the “Report of the Committee on College and University Governance, 2017–18,” included elsewhere in this issue, contain the statements to the annual meeting on the imposition and removal of censure and sanction.

### Georgina M. Smith Award

Established in 1979 to honor the memory of a Rutgers University professor who was a committed feminist, an AAUP leader, and a strong supporter of her faculty

union, the Georgina M. Smith 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.” Deborah Smith, associate professor of philosophy at Kent State University, received the 2018 Georgina M. Smith Award.

Professor Smith was chosen for her admirable leadership in collective bargaining; her success

as chief negotiator during her chapter’s contract negotiations, particularly in deploying an excellent understanding of the university’s finances and securing paid parental-leave rights; and her efforts to implement a meaningful system of faculty evaluation.



Anne Sisson Runyan (left) with Deborah Smith

### Outstanding Achievement Award

The AAUP established the Outstanding Achievement Award to recognize chapter- or conference-level work that advances academic freedom or shared governance. Historian Alexander Zukas of National University received the 2018 Outstanding Achievement Award. Professor Zukas was selected for the award in recognition of his tireless organizing work at National University, where he helped to form an AAUP chapter despite opposition from the administration, and his work on behalf of the California AAUP conference to build solidarity among AAUP chapters.

### Resolution

Members voted at the annual meeting on a resolution proposed by Kevin J. Kean of Central Connecticut State University. The resolution, which called for the AAUP to demonstrate support for faculty members serving on contingent appointments through a commitment to providing factually correct materials about such faculty members, was approved with a series of amendments made from the floor. The text of the resolution is available at <https://www.aaup.org/about/organization/annual-meetings/resolutions-annual-meeting>.

### Fifty-Year AAUP Members

**Elizabeth S. Blake**  
University of Minnesota–  
Twin Cities

**Stephen E. Bloom**  
Cornell University

**Richard J. Deering**  
Wilberforce University

**Joseph H. Eberly**  
University of Rochester

**Constance L. Ecklund**  
Southern Connecticut  
State University

**Gilbert G. Fernandez**  
Tennessee Technological  
University

**Estelle S. Gellman**  
Hofstra University

**Martha Greenblatt**  
Rutgers University

**Stephen W. Hartman**  
New York Institute of  
Technology

**Victor J. Hruby**  
University of Arizona

**Bertram P. Karon**  
Michigan State University

**Joseph H. Killian**  
Wofford College

**Robert J. Kinpoitner**  
Molloy College

**Jay Mandle**  
Colgate University

**Jay M. Pasachoff**  
Williams College

**David B. Patton**  
Ohio State University

**John A. Rowe**  
Northwestern University

**Robert F. Sawyer**  
University of California,  
Berkeley

**J. William Schopf**  
University of California,  
Los Angeles

**Herbert J. Sipe**  
Hampden-Sydney College

**Shirley A. Smoyak**  
Rutgers University–  
Newark

**Conley I. Stutz**  
Bradley University

**William B. Walters**  
University of Maryland  
College Park

**Michael D. Wiley**  
California Lutheran  
University



Rudy Fichtenbaum with Estelle Gellman