

Participating in Capitol Hill Day 2009: How to Get Started

All AAUP members are encouraged to participate in Capitol Hill Day. It is an excellent opportunity to build your relationships with your elected officials, communicate your ideas and perspectives about your area(s) of expertise, and learn a bit about Washington in the process. If you wish to participate in the 2009 Capitol Hill Day, please coordinate with your state conference leaders and also contact Nicole Byrd, government relations associate, at nbyrd@aaup.org. This will ensure that you are in the loop on all communications regarding the annual advocacy day.

Next, you will need to make your appointments for June 11. Call your senators and representative (directories available at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov), identify yourself as a constituent and as an AAUP member, and ask to speak with someone about higher education. DON'T insist on meeting with Congressmen and women only; staffer meetings are as valuable.

Prepare for your meetings using the materials online. Stick to one or two topics and be sure to stay on point and concise when delivering your message. [These materials](#) will help give you some pointers on effective lobbying.

While all preparation materials will be available online several weeks ahead of time, we will also have an open Q&A session on Wednesday, from 6-8pm in the Calvert Room. Nicole and several members of the AAUP government relations committee will be available to answer questions about policy, current bills, and tips on advocating effectively and persuasively. We will also have a table on Thursday morning from 8:30-10am. A limited number of hard copies of the information will be available at both sessions.

Steps:

- 1.) Notify your AAUP conference leadership and Nicole about your intent to participate**
- 2.) Schedule your meetings (be sure to coordinate with other participants from your state to avoid unnecessary duplication and to coordinate your message!)**
- 3.) Read through the lobbying materials so that you are conversant in both the substantive points and the most efficient ways to communicate with Hill staffers.**
- 4.) Pick up materials and ask questions from 6-8pm on Wednesday, June 10 in the Calvert Room, or on Thursday morning between 8:30 and 10am.**