

Allen Zagarell, Anthropology, Western Michigan University

Candidate Biography

Life Experience: I have a long history of social involvement. I took part in the civil rights movement, and have been involved in community organizing.

Academic Experience: I am a tenured, full professor in the Anthropology Department of Western Michigan University.

Research: I am an archaeologist with years of research experience in Asia. I was a Fulbright recipient and have been awarded grants by the Smithsonian, National Geographic, the American Institute for Indian Studies, the Deutsche Forschungs Gemeinschaft, and IREX, as well as other funding sources. I have carried out long term projects in the mountains of southwest Iran, the jungles of South Asia, and Central Asia.

Education: I received my BA from the City College of New York, attended the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, and received my PhD from the Freie Universitaet of West Berlin, in Near Eastern Studies and Ethnography. I speak multiple languages, including German, Farsi, Tajik, Uzbek, some Portuguese and Spanish, among others.

Union Experience: I have a long history of union experience. My father was a factory worker, and an active member of his union. My mother organized her office, and was eventually a member of the UAW. In New York I worked as a journeyman in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Since coming to Western many years ago, I have been quite active serving at all levels of the WMU-AAUP collective bargaining unit. I have served as my

department's representative on the Association Council, as my College's Representative on the Executive Committee, as a member of the 2008 Negotiation Team, as Vice President, and currently (2011-2012) as the President of the WMU-AAUP. I was recently elected to serve as a member of the Executive Board of the state MIAAUP.

Candidate Statement

I am a strong supporter of the principles of the AAUP. The right to be heard and to participate in decision making is a matter of basic dignity. I believe the right of collective bargaining is the guarantee of those rights. I believe in an active organization interested in organizing, that extends the right of collective bargaining to our colleagues. I believe in faculty speaking out about the issues that affect their lives and our nation's educational policy. I advocate the highest level of cooperation between the AAUP and other faculty, academic and community organizations. For example, I strongly support the active cooperation between the AAUP and the AFT in organizing new collective bargaining chapters in various states. On our campus, I spearheaded a forum on state support for Higher Education as a pathway out of the economic morass our state has been bogged down in. This forum involved all the major unions, and other employee groups as well as Western's administration. In this sense I enthusiastically support the initiatives undertaken by Gary Rhoades to develop a dialogue on the needs of Higher Education in the United States. Similar discussions have been initiated by our state American Federation of Teachers and I believe these organizations should work hand in hand in pushing this initiative. I support strong state conferences and coordination between various chapters. The dangers of political interference in academic

freedom and the cutting of support for education have become much more real. We need a strong and active national AAUP as well as active state chapters providing help and support to our members. Where there is no present possibility of collective bargaining we should actively be organizing advocacy groups.