

Rudy Fichtenbaum, Economics, Wright State University

Candidate Biography

Rudy Fichtenbaum is a professor of economics at Wright State University. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1980. Since coming to Wright State in 1980, he has authored more than thirty articles and chapters in books. His writings have dealt with race and sex discrimination, changes in income distribution, the impact of unions on wages and benefits, the effect of occupational structure on earnings, health care costs and regional development. Dr. Fichtenbaum has received awards for outstanding scholarship and service and has twice been elected as President of the Faculty. He has also spent a year as a visiting scholar working for the Labor Research Association. He has served as the Chief Negotiator for the Wright State University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). He was also the President of the Ohio Conference of the AAUP and is also chair of the Ohio Conference Committee on Organizing. Previously, he served two terms as a member of the National Council of the AAUP, served two terms as a member-at-large on the Executive Committee of the Collective Bargaining Congress (CBC) of the AAUP and is currently the Treasurer of the CBC. Dr. Fichtenbaum also serves on the Investment and Audit Committees of the AAUP. He also works as a consultant for AAUP and has analyzed the finances of more than 30 colleges and universities including Rutgers University, the University of Vermont, the University of Akron, Hofstra University, Rider College, the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati State, the University of New Hampshire and Portland State University. He has also has

given numerous workshops for faculty on understanding university and college finances, costing contracts and health benefits and was the winner of the CBC's Sternberg Award in 2010.

Candidate Statement

AAUP is at a critical juncture. Our profession is being attacked on the by court decisions that limit academic freedom, on the economic front by cuts in state funding for higher education and legislatively by attacks on our pensions and right to engage in collective bargaining. The only hope we have for fighting back is to have a strong national organization to represent our interests as a profession.

As a member of the Investments Committee I helped move AAUP away from risky investments, helping provide more stable sources of revenue for AAUP. Over the last few years we have gotten our financial house in order, although we are still operating on razor thin margins. We need someone on Council who is intimately familiar with the Association's finances. We are also coming close to implementing reorganization in which AAUP will become three separate but related organizations; a 501(c) (3), 501(c) (5) and 501(c) (6). This new tripartite structure will pose some new challenges for AAUP as an organization.

The key to strengthening AAUP is building our membership. Without more members we will not be able to address the challenges we face. This means our top priority needs to be organizing new chapters and strengthening existing chapters. As a member of Council, I will work to make building our membership the top priority of our organization. Without increasing our membership we will not be able to continue our work, developing policies for our profession and leading the

fight to protect academic freedom and shared governance.

I believe my experience in helping organize faculty at Bowling Green State University, representing the Ohio Conference in Health & Pension Advocates (HPA) (a state-wide coalition of organization to save the State Teacher's Retirement System) as well as my experience as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Conference of AAUP, my previous experience as a member of Council along with being a member of the CBC Executive Committee will position me well to work to accomplish the goals I have outlined above. Therefore, I ask for your support.