

Stephen Hicks, English, Lock Haven University

Candidate Biography

Steve Hicks is currently the State President of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF), which represents the over six thousand faculty and coaches employed at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. In this capacity he directs the operations of the entire organization, serves as its chief lobbyist, and manages relations with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. He also serves on the negotiations team, which is currently negotiating a faculty contract to replace the one that expires in June, 2011. In his capacity as President, Steve has forged valuable working coalitions with other state labor unions.

The author of several short stories, Steve is an associate professor of English at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania. His Ph.D. from Catholic University is in eighteenth-century British Literature. He began his academic career as a contingent faculty member, first at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and later at Lock Haven's Clearfield Campus. He has, throughout his career, been an active member of APSCUF. While at Clearfield, he served as the campus representative to the Lock Haven's local APSCUF executive council. He served as Clearfield campus's strike coordinator from 1999-2000 and Lock Haven strike co-chair in 2007.

After being elected an alternate delegate to State APSCUF's legislative assembly in 2000, Steve became Lock Haven's chapter vice president in 2002, and he was elected president-elect in a special election in November 2002. He took over as chapter president in 2003. In 2004, he was

appointed to the State APSCUF Meet & Discuss team. In 2005, he joined the state grievance committee, where he consistently fought the battle to protect faculty rights. He was elected State APSCUF president in 2008.

Steve is married to Karen Hicks, and the couple resides in Bloomsburg with their two college-age children.

Candidate Statement

Higher education is at a crossroads, as Presidential administrations, foundations like Lumina, special interests, and our campus administrators challenge our shared understanding of what constitutes higher education. I run for the AAUP Council so that I can work together with other AAUP colleagues to maximize the faculty voice as we confront these challenges.

I can bring to the Council trench experience. As a faculty advocate I attended to campus issues central to the current crossroads. As a campus president, I confronted administrators on issues ranging from workload definition to appropriate class size. One constant struggle was capping enrollment in introductory courses to maximize pedagogical effectiveness.

I co-chaired tasks forces on technology and class size. Even given strained finances, we, with the latter, crafted a guideline calling for no first-year student to have more than one large class. As campus grievance chair, I constantly defended individual faculty members' rights. I consistently fought against a working environment that devalued faculty, a complaint now heard nationally. I would also bring my current experience as state union president. One of my responsibilities is to lobby for state funding, an issue which lies at the cornerstone of our crossroads. States

increasingly claim to not have the capacity to fund higher education. We have sustained funding for our Pennsylvania system, despite repeated statewide across-the-board cuts. We advocated successfully for a pension reform act that flattened a potentially devastating contribution spike while maintaining a defined-benefit.

My organization also lobbies for sound higher education policy. I have experience working to stop policy that attempts to erode higher education's multi-tiered system (the Kerr model) by blending job training, four-year education, and research missions among every type of institution. I think this breakdown leads to the dissolution of faculty rights and a confused understanding of workload. My organization is working to shape the implementation of articulation legislation by increasing the faculty voice.

I believe I bring to office diverse experience valuable in the battles ahead, as many who have never stood in front of a classroom wish to reshape how we educate students.