

Stephen Schiavo, Computer Information Science, Missouri Southern State University.

Candidate Biography

The child of an Air Force officer, I lived abroad 9 of my first 18 years. I took a BA in Math and German from Trinity University in San Antonio, and did two years in the Army, working for the National Security Agency.

My *first* career was in designing, building, peddling information systems. I eventually became VP of World-wide Sales for the software division of Continental Telephone. From the mid-eighties to the mid-nineties I had my own firm, solving problems with information for organizations across the country.

In the mid-90's I retired to the Texas Hill Country. Asked to help a small local college create a campus-wide information system, I became involved in the affairs of Schreiner College (now University). I went back to school for an MS in Management of Technology from the University of Texas in San Antonio.

I moved to the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio to teach technology to the faculty, but soon joined the faculty. The following year I was head of the CIS department. Without the terminal degree, I couldn't achieve tenure as they tried for the demanding AACSB accreditation, so I accepted a tenure-track position at MSSU in 2001 where I've been since.

I was named our school's Carnegie Professor of the Year in 2006 and the (MO) Governor's Award for Excellence in 2009.

When a new president's unilateral policy changes and budget reductions created unrest in the faculty, we formed a chapter of AAUP, and I was named vice president. The second year I was elected president, and I was re-elected this year. I attended the Louisville Conference on Emerging Leaders and the DC Conference on Shared Governance in 2010.

Candidate Statement

I declare myself a candidate for an at large seat on the governing council of AAUP. My intention is to speak particularly for the member institutions where AAUP is not currently a collective bargaining unit.

In some institutions, the membership is not ready to unionize, or may be prohibited from doing so by state regulations. These are still entitled to the attention and support of the national organization.

Here in Missouri our state organization has been very encouraging and supportive, and that may be all a local chapter should expect. However, when issues arise as serious as those we have seen at our own institution, then we need to look for more active ways the national organization can assist the chapters.

I would be in favor of measures to project the power of the national organization onto administrations deemed to be in violation of standards of shared governance and fair practice.

I am an experienced manager, with twenty-five years in business. I am familiar with practices in support of (or in opposition to)

legislation¹ and I am comfortable with team projects involving people of vastly different backgrounds and interests. My preference is to doggedly pursue cooperative remedies, but I am capable of recognizing when that effort is truly hopeless, and then taking a more forceful position. I am committed to operating from the moral high ground at all times, even when not in a position of obvious strength.

I have at least three years left before retirement, and I hope to devote much of my time outside the classroom to the reversal of recent erosion of appreciation for the unique roll of faculty in higher education, and to the advancement of the status of faculty in shared governance both within the institution, and (for state schools) in the legislatures.

¹ I was married to a Capitol Hill lobbyist in DC for 13 years.