

Charles Baker, French and Film,
College of the Holy Cross

Candidate Biography

AAUP member since 1958. Council member (2005-2008).

EDUCATION: B.A. (1955), M.A. (1956), Boston College. Ph.D. (1963), the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

PROFESSIONAL

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Taught French and Film at the College of the Holy Cross (1958 to 2001), retiring as Associate Professor Emeritus. Assistant Dean (1967-71). Director of Film Programs (1963-present). Member of the Compensation Committee (1972-74), the Educational Policy Committee (1980-82) and the Committee on Tenure and Promotion Procedures (1988-90). In the Faculty Senate, Parliamentarian (1994-95), Vice Chair (1995-98, 2000-01), and Chair (1998-2000). Co-founder (1968) and Board Member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Program (1968-74). Currently, consultant to Holy Cross on governance and statutory issues. My publications are in film and contemporary French fiction.

AAUP: HOLY CROSS CHAPTER: Secretary (1964-66, 1978-80), Treasurer (1972-74, 1980-82), Vice-Chair (1982-84, 1988-90) and Chair (1976-78, 1990-2004).

MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE: Treasurer (1990-92), President (1992-2000), Executive Director and Board Member (2000-present). Newsletter Editor (1995-present). Supported the formation of the Emerson University

adjunct faculty CB unit and the Emerson University full-time faculty's successful resistance of the attempt to dissolve their CB unit. Supported the formation of the Suffolk University adjunct's CB unit. Currently working with AAUP National office and local chapters concerning AAUP issues at Anna Maria College, Assumption College, Merrimack College and Boston College.

NATIONAL: Attendance at the Annual Meeting (1991-present), Nominating Committee (1993 and 1994), Secretary of the ASC (1995-2000) and Parliamentarian at the ASC Annual Meeting (1995, 2001-04 and 2008). Panelist on the subject, "The Effective Faculty Senate at Smaller Institutions," at the 2000 Annual Governance Conference. Acting Parliamentarian, Sunday Council Meeting (2005), Credentials Committee, AAUP Annual Meeting (2007), and Elections Committee, ASC Annual Meeting (2007). Member of Council (2005-2008).

OTHER: Auburn, MA: Charter Commission Chair (1976-77), elected Selectman (1978-87), Chair (1985-86) and elected Town Meeting Moderator (1990-present).

Candidate Statement

Where would the Academy be without AAUP policy papers and investigative reports? Who but AAUP told the story of how some administrators in New Orleans used hurricane Katrina to deprive faculty of their rights? Other, more artificial storms have wreaked their own havoc. AAUP must now harness all

its resources to clear their debris and rebuild.

Well-subsidized enemies of the academy like ACTA, NAS, FIRE, and ABOR howled over the last decade. As the 2010's closed, devalued faculty became easy targets in a depressed economy. In Iowa, state legislators attacked the university sabbatical system and threatened a resistant Board of Regents with reprisals. Any attack on sabbaticals, not coincidentally, constitutes a clever assault on tenured faculty. Cynically induced class warfare threatens to undermine the academy further. To avert that storm, "adjuncts" and "part time visitors" must not have their hopes hurled against existing faculty benefits. The historical reason for those benefits--and for tenure itself--must be made clear. Only AAUP can get the true story out there. The organization must hold nationwide conversations among faculty. It should make a special appeal to adjuncts. A united AAUP must then educate the American public about the greatness of American higher education.

Numbers will matter in telling that complex story. For too long, AAUP membership has hovered at about 40,000, with approximately 62% concentrated in 8 states. We need at least 10 times that number to assure fiscal solvency and political impact. The newly instituted dues structure should help increase membership but hard work is clearly needed. In Massachusetts, we increased our numbers by 300 over the last three years. Committed Chapter leaders and engaged Conference leaders worked cooperatively with National staff. The 2010 Annual Meeting recognized our achievement by awarding Massachusetts Chapters two Konheim

Travel Grants (Anna Maria College and Boston College) and the Konheim Award (Boston College).

If elected, I will bring the Massachusetts story to Council in the belief that other Conferences can duplicate our success. In the next decade, AAUP needs to take back, not just defend, the rights of the professoriate.