

2001–2015

Challenges in a New Century

The news for higher education in the twenty-first century has not been good. Growth in tuition rates outpaces inflation year after year, fueling a student debt crisis. Three-quarters of the instructional staff at US colleges and universities are serving on contingent appointments. State funding for public higher education is withdrawn during economic downturns and never restored. Business-minded college and university leaders invest in facilities and administration at the expense of the core educational mission. Conservative state governments seek to undermine collective bargaining rights.

Today's AAUP is fighting back against these threats in myriad ways: by issuing policy statements and reports; by training member-activists through workshops and webinars; by providing vehicles for collective faculty action at the local, state, and national levels; by filing amicus briefs in court cases that affect faculty members and higher education, by disseminating faculty perspectives through print and online publications; and by launching multifaceted campaigns around key issues like contingent faculty appointments. The 2013 legal restructuring of the AAUP into three distinct entities has opened further opportunities by creating the AAUP-CBC, a labor union of AAUP members, and the AAUP Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to promoting the principles of academic freedom.

The Association's history over last century has uniquely equipped today's AAUP to confront the challenges facing higher education, but to do so effectively it needs the broad support of faculty members, students, and others who are concerned about the fate of higher education in the new century.

2001

The AAUP issues the *Statement of Principles on Family Responsibilities and Academic Work*, significantly updating an earlier statement on provisions for child-rearing.



Campus Equity Week rally in New Jersey

On September 11, terrorists crash hijacked airplanes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The US government responds to the attacks by passing the Patriot Act, creating the Department of Homeland Security, and launching wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.



AAUP posters from the early 2000s

2003

The Supreme Court, in its decisions in *Grutter v. Bollinger* and *Gratz v. Bollinger*, upholds the use of affirmative action in college and university admissions, citing the educational benefits of diversity.



Jane Buck, then president of the AAUP, congratulates US Representative Berris Sanders, who received the Henry T. Yost Award in 2004 for his leadership on higher education issues.

The AAUP's Special Committee on Academic Freedom and National Security in a Time of Crisis issues its report on the risks to academic freedom and free inquiry posed by the response to the September 11 attacks.

2005

The Collective Bargaining Congress adopts and the Council endorses *Academic Unionism*, a statement that delineates the principles underlying the AAUP's approach to collective bargaining for faculty members and academic professionals.

2006

In a ruling with potential negative implications for academic freedom, the US Supreme Court in *Garcetti v. Ceballos* restricts speech by public employees on matters related to their "official duties."

2007

The report *Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans Universities*, written by a special nine-member investigating committee, examines violations of AAUP standards at five New Orleans institutions in the aftermath of the 2005 storm. Four administrations are censured, but ameliorative actions taken by the institutions in the following years lead to the lifting of the censures.

The bursting of the bubble in the US housing market triggers a financial crisis and an extended economic downturn. Disinvestment in public higher education accelerates as the Great Recession ushers in new austerity measures.

2009

A subcommittee of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure responds to the issues raised by the Supreme Court's *Garcetti* ruling, arguing forcefully for the importance of protecting an independent faculty voice.



Debra Hanible, the AAUP's receptionist, in the Association's new office on Nineteenth Street NW in 2009

2010

The AAUP publishes the first volume of its annual *Journal of Academic Freedom*.

2011

A new law passed in Wisconsin denies many public employees, including faculty members at state colleges and universities, most collective bargaining rights. A similar measure passes in Ohio but is later repealed in a veto referendum.



AAUP members at the University of Akron build support for the campaign to repeal antiunion legislation in Ohio.

The Occupy protest movement spread rapidly in 2011 and 2012 amid discontent over economic problems such as income inequality and student debt.



The AAUP introduces *Academe Blog*.



A workshop at the 2012 Summer Institute

2013

On January 1, the American Association of University Professors is restructured into three legally distinct entities: the AAUP, a professional organization; the AAUP-CBC, a labor union; and the AAUP Foundation, a charitable organization.



2014

The AAUP's book-length report *Recommended Principles to Guide Academy-Industry Relationships* is published.

The AAUP launches the One Faculty campaign to unite the faculty around concrete improvements in working conditions, shared governance, economic security, and academic freedom for faculty members serving on contingent appointments.



Faculty in a picket line at the University of Illinois at Chicago

The AAUP invites faculty members and others who care about the public mission of America's colleges and universities to sign its centennial declaration, a document that enumerates ten core principles of higher education that are under threat.

Thirty-one academic, scholarly, and educational organizations endorse the 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure*, bringing the total number of endorsers to 248 as the AAUP enters its centennial year.

2015

Johns Hopkins University Press publishes the eleventh edition of the AAUP's Redbook to coincide with the centennial.



The centennial edition of the Redbook

We are at a tipping point. Campuses that overuse contingent appointments show higher levels of disengagement and disaffection among faculty, even those with more secure positions. We see a steadily shrinking minority, faculty with tenure, as increasingly unable to protect academic freedom, professional autonomy, and the faculty role in governance for themselves—much less for the contingent majority.

—TENURE AND TEACHING-INTENSIVE APPOINTMENTS (2010)

