

**Charles J. Parrish**, Political Science,  
Wayne State University

### Candidate Biography

Charles J. Parrish is Professor of Political Science at Wayne State University. He received his doctorate from the University of North Carolina. He has published articles and monographs on political behavior, policy and politics in Latin America. He has held faculty appointments at the University of Texas, Austin; the University of Chile, Santiago; and the University of Essex, Colchester, England. He was Chair of the Department of Political Science for five years and for more than decade was Director of the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State. He has been active in the AAUP-AFT chapter at Wayne State for over two decades since leaving his last administrative post. He has served in a number of offices in the Wayne State Chapter and as its President for over ten years. He was President of the Michigan AAUP Conference for two terms and is presently its Vice President. He also serves as an at-large Vice President of the Michigan American Federation of Teachers. He has served a number of terms on the National Council of the AAUP since the 1990s.

### Candidate Statement

The AAUP has faced a series of recent crises. With a budget of \$6 million, it ran a hidden annual deficit of several hundreds of thousands of dollars for several years. The worst was that the elected leaders, including President Cary Nelson, were unaware of it when it occurred.

Eventually, the situation was resolved. The Chief Financial Officer was terminated and there was an attempt to meet the organizational crises. Hiring Gary Rhoades

as General Secretary was a step forward and he pushed for new efforts to organize chapters to expand the stagnating membership. Rhoades reached out to other organizations, notably the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, to build coalitions and membership in both collective bargaining and advocacy chapters. He was popular with many leaders in chapters and state conferences, but got pushback from some national staff members and other leaders, including the National President Cary Nelson. The fallout of this situation was that Rhoades was fired as General Secretary by Nelson and his supporters, to the dismay of a number of many, including me.

Academics have been under attack nationally, especially in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Michigan. The campaign in Ohio against Senate Bill 5 outlawing public sector bargaining will be voted on in November due to a petition drive in which the Ohio AAUP Conference and Professor Rudy Fichtenbaum, Wright State University, played a very active role. Rudy is running for the AAUP presidency leading the "Organizing for Change" (OFR) slate of candidates. I am pleased to be a member of that slate. These candidates believe that the best way to defend academic freedom is through organizing strong AAUP chapters.

This initial message is limited by AAUP rules, but you will be able to read the OFR slate and the platform for expanding both advocacy and collective bargaining chapters in the near future. I support the OFR slate and the principles embodied in the platform. Many AAUP leaders across the country are endorsing the OFR platform and its candidates. Watch for further communications giving you more information.