

John K. Wilson, Education, Illinois State University

Candidate Biography

John K. Wilson is a PhD student in Educational Administration and Foundations at Illinois State University, completing his dissertation on the history of academic freedom in America. He holds BAs in History, Philosophy, and Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and has also attended the University of Chicago. He has previously taught education and political science classes as an adjunct at Illinois State University.

He is the author of seven books, including *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Rush Limbaugh's Assault on Reason* (Thomas Dunne Books, March 2011). His first book, *The Myth of Political Correctness: The Conservative Attack on Higher Education* (Duke University Press, 1995), won a Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America. He has also written books about Newt Gingrich, Barack Obama, and progressive politics, as well as *Patriotic Correctness: Academic Freedom and Its Enemies* (Paradigm Publishers, 2008).

His essay on "Marketing McCarthyism: The Media's Role in the War on Academic Freedom," appears in the new book, *Academic Freedom in the Post-9/11 Era* (Palgrave Macmillan, November 2010).

He has previously served on the Illinois AAUP Council, on the national AAUP's Committee on Graduate and Professional Students, and as editor of *Democratic Culture*, the journal of Teachers for a Democratic Culture. He currently serves on the Association of State Conferences Awards Committee, the Illinois AAUP's Committee A, and has been editor since 2003 of the award-winning state conference newspaper, *Illinois Academe*.

He is founder of the blog College Freedom (collegefreedom.blogspot.com), and has been a leading public advocate of academic freedom,

appearing on C-SPAN, the O'Reilly Factor, and numerous radio and TV shows.

Candidate Statement

I am running for National Council because of my commitment to the AAUP's ideals and my expertise in academic freedom. As a student of the AAUP's history, I believe that the AAUP must become a more active force in this century in order to protect academic freedom and improve higher education.

The AAUP cannot be a top-down organization, no matter how wise our current leadership or how hardworking the AAUP staffers are. The strength of the AAUP is in its members, and we must utilize our members to help the AAUP in its advocacy, investigations, and recruitment. I would like to help start an AAUP speakers bureau to encourage our members to organize events across the country and speak out. I am currently working on starting an independent group blog about higher education with the help of many AAUP folks, because I believe the AAUP members and leaders must reach out to the public. I want to bridge the gap between the National Council and state conferences and chapters by working to aid them with my experience in creating newspapers, email newsletters, and websites.

I encourage you to read my books on higher education or my blog at <http://collegefreedom.blogspot.com>. Even if you don't plan to vote for me, email me at collegefreedom@yahoo.com with your suggestions for improving the AAUP, and I will post your views on my blog along with my response.

The AAUP must revitalize itself, with a renewed attention to recruiting adjunct faculty and the graduate students who will form the future generations of AAUP members. We need to enhance the racial, gender, and class diversity of the AAUP, encourage conservatives to join with the AAUP's principled defense of academic freedom, defend the rights of everyone in the

academic community, and expand the AAUP's work. The AAUP has been most successful in its history when it stands up for its principles, speaks out against attacks on higher education, and fights for academic freedom. I hope to do this as part of the National Council, and encourage all AAUP members to do the same.