
Report of the 2019 Annual Conference

The AAUP hosted its Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education in Arlington, Virginia, from June 12 to 16, 2019. The 105th Annual Meeting of the AAUP and the regular business meeting of the AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress were held in conjunction with the conference.

The conference program began with a question-and-answer session Wednesday afternoon about proposed changes to the organizational structure of the AAUP and the AAUP-CBC and proposed amendments to the AAUP Constitution. These changes are discussed in greater detail below.



Joan W. Scott

The conference's first full day began with an opening plenary discussion of *The Future of Academic Freedom*, a new book by Henry Reichman, chair of the AAUP's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure. Participants included Reichman; Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity Washington University; Alyssa Picard, director of AFT Higher Education; Frederick Lawrence, secretary and CEO of Phi Beta Kappa; and Will Creeley, senior vice president of legal and public advocacy at the Foundation for Individual

Rights in Education. The session attracted a large audience and included a lively round of comments and questions.

In lieu of paper panels, this year's conference featured a series of peer-to-peer sessions on Thursday and Friday in which AAUP staff and members discussed topics of interest such as current issues in shared governance, chapter communications, developing issue campaigns on campus, and post-*Janus* issues and strategies. An additional series on "AAUP Essentials" provided information about the Association's work on academic freedom, governance, and the status of women in the academic profession. Attendance was high for most sessions, and many participants commented favorably on the new format.

The Friday plenary luncheon speaker was Joan W. Scott, a former chair of the AAUP's Committee A and professor emerita at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. She is the author of many books, including the classic *Gender and the Politics of History* and the recent *Knowledge, Power, and Academic Freedom*, which brings together her essays—spanning two decades—on academic freedom. In her keynote address, "Knowledge for the Common Good," Professor Scott discussed crucial distinctions between academic freedom and free speech and made a powerful case for academic freedom as the essential foundation of knowledge—"the accumulated product of disciplined thought, verified by communities of scholars"—that benefits society as a whole and enables social, economic, political, and scientific progress. Linking the current "noise about free speech on campus" and proposed campus free-speech legislation to broader attacks on higher education, she asserted that "to defend academic freedom is to defend the production and transmission of knowledge" and closed with a reminder that "the futures of the common good and of academic freedom are bound up together; the one cannot survive without the other. It is up to us to ensure their joint survival."

The awards and recognition luncheon on Saturday

provided an occasion for the Association to celebrate this year's award recipients and to honor its fifty-year members.

Photographs from the annual meeting and the higher education conference are available at <https://www.flickr.com/aaup>.

AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress

The AAUP-CBC held its regular business meeting on Thursday evening. As part of a package of proposed structural changes to the organization of the AAUP and AAUP-CBC, the regular meeting voted to approve a motion to dissolve the AAUP-CBC. The vote was contingent upon the passage of subsequent motions at the AAUP annual meeting on Saturday.

The results of the AAUP-CBC election for chair, vice chair, and three at-large members of the AAUP-CBC Executive Committee are printed elsewhere in this issue in "Officers and Committees of the AAUP-CBC." Starting on January 1, 2020, these officers will serve on the transitional AAUP Council, along with other members of the AAUP-CBC Executive Committee.

Noeleen McIlvenna of Wright State University was presented with the Marilyn Sternberg Award at the AAUP-CBC dinner on Thursday. The Sternberg Award recognizes AAUP members who "demonstrate concern for human rights, courage, persistence, political foresight, imagination, and collective bargaining skills." McIlvenna was chosen for the award in recognition of her service to Wright State's AAUP chapter as the chapter's first contract administration officer during a



Paul Davis and Noeleen McIlvenna



Erik Loomis

time when her university's administration and board were in the midst of a financial crisis. The award committee noted that "when the chapter began negotiating a new contract and encountered stubborn resistance from the administration, she took on an increasingly important role in organizing and in the eventual successful strike by AAUP-WSU members." Professor McIlvenna was subsequently elected as the chapter's new president.

Following the presentation of the Sternberg Award, Paul Davis of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College was recognized for his service as chair of the AAUP-CBC.

Erik Loomis, associate professor of history at the University of Rhode Island and author of the recent book *A History of America in Ten Strikes*, was the featured speaker at the AAUP-CBC dinner. In his keynote address, "Strikes in America: Past and Present," Professor Loomis described the working class as "not just white men in Pennsylvania," noting that labor is much broader and more diverse, despite a tendency to describe the working class in narrow terms that emphasize white males. Strikes, he said, are not the sole purview of unions, but also include such momentous events as enslaved African Americans leaving plantations in the Civil War era and the 2006 Day without Immigrants.

Actions Related to Restructuring

Following the vote of the AAUP-CBC regular meeting to dissolve the AAUP-CBC as part of a package of proposed organizational changes, the 105th Annual Meeting approved, by proportional vote, proposed amendments to the AAUP Constitution codifying changes recommended by the AAUP Council in November 2018. The motion proposing

the amendments included the Constitutional Amendment Proviso establishing the transitional leadership structure for the newly combined organization. The meeting subsequently voted, also by proportional vote, to approve a motion to roll CBC dues into AAUP collective bargaining dues, effective January 1, 2020. This change will result in a one-time increase of \$23 for the full-time, entrant, and associate categories of AAUP collective bargaining dues and a one-time increase of \$10 for part-time and graduate student AAUP collective bargaining dues. The AAUP-CBC will dissolve, and therefore will no longer collect CBC dues, effective January 1, 2020.

As the restructuring process moves forward, updated information will be available on the AAUP website at <https://www.aaup.org/restructuring>.

Censure and Sanction Actions

Delegates to the annual meeting voted to place St. Edward's University (Texas) and Nunez Community College (Louisiana) on the Association's list of censored administrations. The annual meeting also voted to place Vermont Law School on the list of sanctioned institutions and to remove Idaho State University from the sanction list. Although the Committee on College and University Governance had authorized the publication of an investigative report concerning Maricopa Community Colleges (Arizona), the committee made no recommendation regarding sanction. Censure by the AAUP informs the academic community that the administration of an institution has not adhered to generally recognized principles of academic freedom and tenure; sanction informs the academic community that an institution has infringed standards of academic governance. Censure and sanction are lifted after an administration or institution takes the necessary steps to address the AAUP's outstanding concerns.

The "Report of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, 2018–19," and the "Report of the Committee on College and University Governance, 2018–19," included elsewhere in this issue, contain the censure and sanction statements.

Georgina M. Smith Award

Established in 1979 to honor the memory of a Rutgers University professor who was a committed feminist, an AAUP leader, and a strong supporter of her faculty union, the Georgina M. Smith award is presented "to a person who has provided exceptional leadership in the past year in improving the status of academic women or in advancing collective bargaining and

through that work has improved the profession in general." This year, the award was presented to Jennifer K. Kerns of Portland State University and Christine Blasey Ford of Palo Alto University.

The award for Professor Kerns recognized her contributions as vice president for organizing for the Portland State University AAUP chapter and her leadership in engaging faculty members and academic professionals who identified as women, LGBTQ, persons of color, parents and caregivers, or persons with disabilities. Her organizing work led a number of people who had not been active in the chapter previously to become member volunteers and contributed to increasing PSU-AAUP's membership levels, which are now the highest in the chapter's four-decade history.

The award for Professor Ford recognized her "remarkable courage, grace, and generosity in shar-



Jennifer K. Kerns and Janice Habarth

ing her story of sexual assault in a highly public and publicized US Senate hearing." The award committee noted that, while her purpose was "to share her experience so that the Senate could make a fully informed decision about a Supreme Court nomination, her actions have also advanced the status of academic women, along with that of women in general." Janice Habarth, the secretary-treasurer of the Palo Alto University AAUP chapter, accepted the award and read remarks by Professor Ford.

Outstanding Achievement Award

The AAUP established the Outstanding Achievement Award to recognize chapter- or conference-level work to advance academic freedom or shared governance, promote the economic security of academics, help the higher education community organize, or ensure higher education's contribution to the common good. The Wright State University AAUP chapter is the recipient of the AAUP's 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award. In announcing the award, the award

committee observed that “chapter members fought an unjust contract—staying united throughout the longest strike in Ohio higher education history—to stand for what was best for the university and for their students. The faculty at Wright State didn't crack under pressure and have inspired other chapters.” Chapter president Noeleen McIlvenna accepted the award on behalf of the chapter. ■

Fifty-Year AAUP Members

David L. Bruck
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Douglas L. Johnson
Clark University

John H. Planer
Manchester College

Morton J. Tenzer
University of Connecticut

Frederick J. Ernst
Potsdam, New York

Boaz Kahana
Cleveland State University

Donald Malcolm Reid
Georgia State University

John J. Thomas
Skidmore College

Eva D. Ferguson
Southern Illinois
University Edwardsville

Stewart Macauley
University of Wisconsin–
Madison

Bertram M. Schreiber
Wayne State University

John A. White
Rochester Institute of
Technology

Judith Frankel
University of Cincinnati

Joel T. Mague
Tulane University

Gilbert B. Solitare
Madison, New Jersey

Anthony W. Wolk
Portland State University

Lucille B. Garmon
University of West Georgia

Hugh T. Patrick
Columbia University

Irving J. Spitzberg
Monkton, Maryland

Jerrold H. Zar
Northern Illinois University

William H. Jefferys
University of Vermont

David A. Phillips
Wabash College

Patricia G. Steinhoff
University of Hawaii
at Manoa