

Charmaine Chua

I have been a labor organizer in higher education for over a decade. As a faculty member at three different institutions, I have worked to build strong local AAUP organizations. I served on the AAUP board of Oberlin College where we led a fight contesting the university's attempt to consolidate departments and fire unionized staff on the pretext of austerity; and on the board of the UC Santa Barbara Faculty Association where I led our labor solidarity work. In my current position at UC Berkeley, I serve as the Chair of Campus Labor Organizing at the Council of UC Faculty Associations, the coordinating organization for the 10 Faculty Associations of the University of California system. Our team has reorganized our faculty associations into fighting organizations, moving away from an advocacy-based model of faculty activism towards an organizing model that is building a base of faculty grounded in fighting for material wins. We have led issue-based campaigns to demand the restitution of public funding for scientific and humanistic research, and are fighting against the intensification of our workloads by demanding that the university live up to its promise of maintaining student-faculty ratios. We have also initiated and joined [several critical lawsuits](#) against the Trump administration. I am running for at-large council member to bring my experience in the labor movement into strategic conversation with other AAUP chapters across the country. I believe in connecting AAUP chapters so as to equip faculty en masse to organize as subjects of our own struggle. The fronts of struggle are many — attacks on academic freedom and shared governance, the intensification of faculty workloads, the anti-protest politics of university administrations that facilitate student and labor repression, the corporatization of research, the increasingly uneven exploitation of university workers through the precaritization of faculty labor — and there is much work to do. I'm ready to do it, and to help build an AAUP council committed to solidarity across institutions and to unifying our struggle for the future of higher education.