

Alex Zukas

Candidate Statement:

Over the past few years I have been active in regional AAUP affairs as Vice President for Private Colleges and Universities (2014-2016) and as President (2016-2018) of the California Conference of the AAUP. My term as President ends in March 2018 and I am interested in making contributions to the national AAUP as its fights to advance academic freedom and shared governance in the current political climate. I co-founded an AAUP Advocacy Chapter at my university (2015) and I have fought for faculty rights as Chair of the Faculty Senate and currently as Vice Chair and Senator, especially with regard to shared governance, academic freedom, and faculty workload and economic security. I have actively supported the AAUP's values and mission as a member since 2001 and I believe that we need a strong AAUP to counter the neo-liberal challenge of the Trump Administration which is attempting to weaken faculty rights and welfare along with the standards of higher education. I am particularly interested in issues related to the faculty's right to organize collectively in whatever form it thinks best, preventing intimidation of professors by off-campus groups, defending academic freedom and shared governance at state and private institutions, and upholding the professional values and standards in higher education for which the AAUP has stood since 1915.

Alex Zukas Bio:

I received my Ph.D. in modern European and world history from the University of California, Irvine and I teach courses in world history, global studies, political economy, and the history of cartography. My fields of academic interest are social history, especially labor history, and the history of cartography. I have been involved in progressive causes since my undergraduate days and worked to form a TA Union at UC Irvine when I was a graduate student there. My activism continued when I became a full-time faculty member at National University, first as a Faculty Senator, and then as Vice Chair and Chair of the Faculty Senate, where I helped secure victories for faculty in terms of workload, contracts, salary increases, and shared governance. I am also active outside my university in ways that have relevance to AAUP's mission to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good. In my capacity as a labor historian I was an active member of the San Diego Free Speech Centennial Historical Committee "100-Year Anniversary of the Free Speech Movement in San Diego" in 2011 and 2012 sponsored by the History Committee of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council. The Committee sponsored five events over a two-month period in early 2012 and set up an exhibition of the 100-Year Anniversary of the IWW's 1912 Free Speech Movement in San Diego that was open to the public. My activism has not abated and I would be pleased to be elected to the AAUP Council from District 1 and move that activism to another level.