

My name is Davarian Baldwin and I am asking for your vote to join the leadership of AAUP as part of candidate slate, *Faculty United for the Common Good*. AAUP has been at the frontlines of fighting for faculty governance and against labor contingency and the direct impact of adjunctification on academic freedom. My scholarship on higher education's growing control over our cities and towns, however, has shown me that we have maintained a very limited view of the "academic community" at our own peril. The organizing that has come out of this research has given me the experience of campaigns that understand how campus organizing must be embedded within the broader academic community.

From New Haven to Berkeley from Chicago to Charlottesville I have seen that our only chance to win this struggle over the future of higher education rests on building out a common good that connects the freedoms of our faculty, to the wages of all campus workers, to the policing and healthcare practices of our schools, to the impacts of campus expansion on surrounding communities. Our success, our relevance, our future is predicated on confronting and diagnosing the new shop floor, from the campus and out into the broader academic community.

The above realization is why I have proudly joined the candidate slate, *Faculty United for the Common Good*. The sheer magnitude of the crisis that we face across higher education demands a new approach in order to build the power necessary for the collective transformation of the sector. To that end, we believe that AAUP, AFT and all higher ed workers must focus on a broad vision of wall-to-wall organizing in and beyond our campuses. For us this means tearing down the barriers that divide us in order to build advocacy chapters, coalitions, and collective bargaining units across job categories: from professional staff and grad workers to dining staff, adjunct faculty, and tenure track faculty. It means confronting contingency at our institutions and demanding that all higher ed work be treated as work with dignity. It means building alignment with students and fighting to cancel student debt, while winning free public higher education in two and four year institutions. It means recognizing that our campuses have no borders, and we must organize for and with the communities to which we belong. It means recognizing and making reparations for the present-day and historic harms that academia has wrought largely on communities of color: labor exploitation, land displacement, and scientific experimentation. Another university is possible.

**Davarian L. Baldwin** is the Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of American Studies and founding director of the Smart Cities Lab at Trinity College (CT). His academic and political commitments have focused on global cities and particularly the diverse and marginalized communities that struggle to maintain sustainable lives in urban locales. Baldwin is the author of several books, most recently *In the Shadow of the Ivory Tower: How Universities are Plundering Our Cities* (Bold Type, 2021). This work has allowed him to coordinate with campus workers, activists, and community groups across the country around the issues of collective bargaining,

gentrification, policing etc. Through his lab, Baldwin has proudly assisted in both successful and ongoing campaigns against universities on behalf of faculty and surrounding communities fighting for fair wages, tax-relief, affordable housing, and reparations. He also serves on the executive committee of Scholars for Social Justice and as a contributing member to Scholars for a New Deal in Higher Education.