

## BIOGRAPHY

Trained as a historian, I received my B.A. from Rutgers in 1964 and my Ph.D. in 1971 from the University of Chicago. From 1969 to 1982, I taught full-time at the University of Rochester. In 1982, I joined the AAUP staff as a senior program officer in the Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance—a position I held until my retirement in 2013. During my thirty-one years of service I provided advice and assistance to thousands of faculty members on issues of academic freedom and tenure, shared governance, professional ethics, discrimination, and the rights of contingent faculty, analyzed hundreds of faculty handbooks and collective-bargaining agreements for their conformity with AAUP-supported principles and procedural standards, participated in the formulation of key policy documents, oversaw dozens of investigations that led to formal censure or sanction, and staffed, organized, and participated in numerous governance conferences. I was an invited speaker at chapter and conference meetings around the country and led training workshops for many years at the annual Summer Institute. I also served as the editor of five successive editions of the *Redbook* and was an associate editor of *Academe*. (For a description and assessment of my AAUP service, please see this: <http://www.aaup.org/article/long-serving-staff-member-bob-kreiser-retires#.Vjt1OhVhHw>.) My knowledge of the AAUP's operations and the Council's role and responsibilities give me a useful perspective that would benefit the Council's decision making on a range of matters.

While I was on the AAUP staff, I served for nearly two decades as the elected financial officer of the Society for French Historical Studies and as its delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies. Starting in 1996, and down to the present, I have been an adjunct professor of history at George Mason University, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses.

## STATEMENT

I am seeking your support for my candidacy for election as an at-large member of the Council. As both a faculty member and a former AAUP staff member, I have dedicated my career to promoting AAUP principles and am running for the Council out of my strong commitment to our organization's ideals and our profession's interests.

Since retiring from the staff, I have continued my service to the Association as a freelance editor for *Academe* and as guest-editor of the January-February 2015 issue, which commemorated the AAUP's centennial. In addition, I have served as an expert witness for faculty plaintiffs in federal district court cases raising issues of academic freedom, tenure, and due process. I have also been conducting independent research on the history of academic freedom in the U.S., resulting, most recently, in an article, "Championing Academic Freedom at Rutgers: The Genovese Affair and the Teach-in of April 1965," published in the 2017 issue of the *Journal of Academic Freedom*.

As evidenced by my post-retirement activities, I remain passionately committed to the Association's mission and core principles and am fully conversant with the serious challenges currently facing our profession: the erosion of academic freedom, evisceration of tenure, exploitation of contingent faculty, and assaults on shared governance. It is no exaggeration to say that we are in a state of crisis—the deprofessionalization of the academic workforce and the corporatization of our institutions. The profound and pernicious threat to the fair-share agency-fee

system and to union rights more generally posed by the *Janus* case presently before the Supreme Court cannot be underestimated.

Now, more than ever, it is important to keep the AAUP, an organization to which I have devoted a major part of my professional life, vital and relevant as the conscience of the American academy. Election to the Council would afford me the opportunity to contribute my experience and knowledge of the Association's history and traditions to advance our agenda and to ensure higher education's continuing contribution to the common good. **We must resist and persist with action.**