

Brian Turner

Biographical information

I am professor and chair of Political Science at Randolph-Macon College. I received my Ph.D. in 1992 from Tulane University, the same year I joined AAUP. I have extensive service in AAUP at the chapter, conference, and national levels. I currently serve on the **Executive Committee of the National Council** in my capacity as **Chair of the Assembly of State Conferences (ASC)**, a position I have held since 2016. I previously served as **Secretary** and **Vice-Chair of the ASC**, thus serving on the ASC Executive Committee from 2008-2012, 2013-2020. I also serve on the **Committee on College and University Governance**, and have served on the **Elections and Nominations Committees**. I served as **Guest Editor** of *Academe*, November-December 2013. I served as **Chair** the national AAUP's Committee on Government Relations from 2008-2014. My activities included developing position papers for the national Capitol Hill Day

I was elected **President of the Virginia Conference** for 2006-2008 and have served on the **Virginia Conference Executive Committee** since 2000, when I was appointed to chair the **Committee on Political Activity**. I initiated plans for an annual **Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day** at the state legislature in 2003 and have organized the faculty organizations' legislative agenda and advocacy now for eighteen years. In 2007 I was the recipient of the **Al Sumberg Award**, given by the Assembly of State Conferences, in recognition of my work in government relations.

I served as **chapter president** from 1997-2003, and continue to actively promote the AAUP chapter and AAUP positions on my campus. On campus I have been on many committees, including six years of service on our tenure and promotion committee. Since 2001 I have been the Secretary of the Faculty (equivalent to secretary and parliamentarian on a faculty senate).

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Statement

I have dedicated much of my professional life over the past twenty-three years to promoting the principles and goals of the AAUP on my campus, in my state, and nationally. In all of my efforts I have endeavored to be thorough, creative, and to make AAUP membership attractive, indeed essential, and even enjoyable. I seek election to the National Council so that I can continue to contribute my efforts to addressing the AAUP's key challenges.

AAUP must continue to be strong to defend the public good

I have served on the Executive Committee of the AAUP Council since January 2016, and have been privileged to observe how hard our staff and elected leadership have worked to make the AAUP a stronger organization in very turbulent times. The many hours of careful planning have placed us in a solid position, for now, after the U.S. Supreme Court endorsed the right-wing attack on collective bargaining in its *Janus v. AFSCME* (2018) decision. The effort to destroy collective bargaining and to make collective action on behalf of the public good ever more difficult continues on many fronts, and AAUP must continue to raise its voice in defense of collective action by faculty for the public good.

AAUP must continue to support state conferences and build their capacity

The Assembly of State Conferences (ASC), on whose Executive Committee I have served eleven of the last twelve years, the last four as Chair, offered faculty workshops and support grants to encourage chapter and conference building, and saw the fruits of these efforts a number of stronger conferences across the country. Restructuring of the AAUP, which I strongly supported, eliminated the ASC, but support for state conferences must remain a central goal of the AAUP. State conferences are the best mechanism for organizing collective action by faculty to engage state-level higher education authorities, legislatures, and the public at large.

AAUP must strengthen active chapters, revive dormant chapters, and organize new chapters

The chapter is the core institution of the AAUP, as only strong chapters can promote and defend AAUP principles on the front lines where institutional decisions are made. The new AAUP structure makes the chapter the unit of representation, which presents us with an excellent opportunity to work effectively with more chapters and engage them more meaningfully in national and state conference programs.

AAUP must build membership

The AAUP must build its membership directly through recruitment and indirectly by showing the nation's professoriate that we are energetically engaged in defending our core values. In my second year at Randolph-Macon I worked to revive a dormant chapter, building membership up to about twenty percent of the total number of full- and part-time faculty through direct recruitment efforts. In all of my government relations work in Virginia and nationally I make sure to let members, and non-members, know that the AAUP is fighting for them.

I very much look forward to working with my AAUP colleagues in facing the many challenges before us, united and strong!