

AAUP District 4 Council Candidate Statement

David Nalbone (PhD, Social Psychology, Claremont Graduate University) has been at the forefront of numerous attempts to impose the all-administrative university at Purdue. In 2013, I founded, organized, and led a chapter after the administration at Purdue University Calumet identified seven full-time faculty positions (including six on the tenure-track) for elimination, claiming budgetary woes—all while hiring nearly two dozen administrative and athletic support staff. After pressuring the administration, those cuts were rescinded. Months later, it was announced that the campuses of Purdue University Calumet and Purdue North Central, despite being 35 miles apart and quite distinct, would be merged. I led (unsuccessful) efforts to nix the merger, as well as to conduct an impact study of it to ascertain its feasibility and wisdom; in both cases, the administration did not care to engage in data-driven decision-making.

Most recently, I was actively involved in efforts to oppose the privatization of Purdue, after its acquisition of Kaplan, a for-profit predatory institution. This corruption of a public institution of higher education—led by Purdue’s president, the politician Mitch Daniels—has cast a shadow over the value of public goods and of higher education generally, and represents a grave threat to tenure, as the stated goal at the time was to “make some real money,” clearly not the mission of a land-grant university. I continue my efforts (as VP of my state conference) to fight privatization and to increase transparency and accountability, with my current efforts being to show faculty across the state how to use the tools acquired at the AAUP Summer Institute to examine financial reports submitted by the administration to check its financial and budgetary claims, and to increase both membership and activity at local chapters.