

AAUP National Council, At-Large Seat Candidate Statement

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Academia is facing serious changes. As a second-term Council member, I will continue to contribute to strategic planning that advances our profession locally and nationally. I believe in a strong faculty voice for those in tenure and non-tenure lines; academic freedom in teaching, research, creativity; shared governance where faculty are crucial partners in decision-making; and collective bargaining. I bring continued energy and informed perspectives to the Council. I ask for your vote for the Council.

Recent national experience I bring includes: AAUP Council; Vice Chair, AAUP-CBC; CBC executive committee; Joint AAUP-CBC budget committee; CBC nominations committee.

Locally, I served as a three-term chapter president and was part of the effort bringing our chapter back into the Collective Bargaining Congress. I was part of chapter transformations, leading our members on the executive committee.

I am concerned with attacks on higher education. Legislative defunding forces administrators to erode tenure systems and take advantage of qualified, yet “contingent” scholar-workers who have limited protections. Undermining higher education hinders academia’s goals to impart and generate new knowledge across disciplines. Also, the inclusion of “civility” and “collegiality” in university documents for promotion and tenure decisions is causing a chilling effect on our freedom of expression and freedom to voice for inclusion in university governance. Assaults on collective bargaining rights erode protections for all who fought hard and made sacrifices for those rights. The AAUP must continue to respond quickly to infringements. I have the passion to work with colleagues and respond to challenges.

I endorse organizing faculty across the country. Mobilization is still necessary for defending core principles of academic freedom and shared governance. Organizing educators, not just those faculty that have the right to organize through legislation, helps provide economic security for all members. Also, there are many socio-political issues that bear upon basic faculty and workplace rights. These continue to be relevant. The AAUP must continue to impact standards of the profession. I will work to ensure that all members have their voices heard by the national AAUP Council.

BIOGRAPHY

Ph.D. Radio-TV-Film, University of Texas

M.A. Communication, University of Michigan
B.A. Rhetoric, U.C. Berkeley

Selected University work: Developer La Comunidad Intelectual Living Learning Community 2013-present; AAUP Online teaching bargaining (2011-13); Online course developer-instructor for three courses; Director IPRLS 2009-11; Associate Director IPRLS 1997-2003; Senate Student Enrollment (2012-present); Senate Budget (2009-11); College Liberal Arts Sciences Committee on Committees (2006-08); Univ. Assessment for reaccreditation (2006-08); Student Union Project Advisory (2003-2004); General Education Oversight Committee--chair, vice chair social sciences (2003-2004); Grad Council (2002-04); Recognition of Advocacy (2004); Outstanding Faculty of the Year (2003); Women of Color Recognition Award (2003).

Selected Professional Work: AEJMC Presidential Citation (2007-08, 2008-09); Top Division Officers Award (2000-01); AEJMC division secretary, vice head, head (1998-2001); Accrediting Council (ACEJMC) (2009-11); Teaching Standards AEJMC vice chair, chair (2005-07); AEJMC-ACEJMC, JLID inaugural fellow (2000-02); ICA Feminist Scholarship division chair, vice chair (2007-11).

Additional Biography. My first career job was at the University of New Mexico. I worked with first generation to attend college, and Native American students whose hearts were with their people on the reservation. At the University of Connecticut I arrived as a jointly appointed assistant professor in Communication Sciences and the Institute of Puerto Rican-Latino Studies. Juggling research, cross-disciplinary teaching, advising, student/faculty advocacy between multiple entities was a tremendous feat. Being a joint appointment during my career means that I have lived through the intricacies of job expectations, evaluations, and promotions. I know that specifics involved in one's terms of hire can vary widely across faculty, faculty bodies within the same university system, as well as across decision-makers interpreting/misconstruing details of one's appointment. Moreover, as an AAUP executive committee member, officer and president I have helped work on problems facing members with informed insight, compassion and logic.