

## George Wharton - Statement

I want to be your next District 10 Council representative. As you can see on my AAUP biography, I have served four terms as my College's union President and have negotiated six successful contracts for my Chapter. I also served seventeen years as the Massachusetts Conference AAUP President. My AAUP experience has taught me much that I could bring to Council.

When I talk with faculty at private colleges who want to start new AAUP chapters, they invariably ask if they can form a union. I tell them that while we were negotiating our first contract at Curry College, the Yeshiva decision was announced. Curry's President told our faculty that we had no right to organize. The entire faculty got up and left the room. Our chapter President replied to the President that the faculty would return to work as soon as the College agreed to resume negotiation. They agreed and we returned. Thirty-eight years later, our union is sound. At a time when union rights for state college and university faculty is under judicial review, I remember that legal permission is helpful, but solidarity wins the day.

Aggrieved faculty often ask the AAUP for legal help. I propose that with the exception of the Annual Meeting, AAUP committees should meet electronically rather than in Washington. The money saved could pay for a few skilled labor lawyers to advise AAUP members who need immediate legal advice. This would add a powerful recruiting tool for the AAUP.

Finally, I would have the AAUP approach academic book publishers to see if a deal could be struck to trade AAUP endorsed, mass textbook adoptions by AAUP members in exchange for free textbooks for needy students. Participation in this program would be strictly voluntary, but if enough members participated, free textbooks could go to needy students. During my presidency of the Curry College AAUP, we began a program to help needy students buy textbooks. It is one of our most successful programs. We demonstrated that the AAUP is not there just for faculty but is also there to support students.

## **George C. Wharton, Ph.D.**

- President, AAUP Massachusetts State Conference. 2000-Present. Advocated AAUP membership at Massachusetts colleges and universities. Defended rights of faculty members across Massachusetts. Spoke out at rallies and meetings in defense of AAUP colleagues.
- President, Curry College Collective Bargaining Chapter, 2002-2004, 2004-2006. Advanced and protected faculty governance, college paid health insurance benefits, added benefits for librarians.
- President and Contract Grievance Officer, Curry College AAUP Chapter, 1990-1992, 1992-1994. Uncovered malfeasance by College's President. Led faculty delegation to demand President's resignation. Persuaded Trustees to hire faculty choice as next President. Defended faculty rights.
- Treasurer, Assembly of State Conferences (A.S.C.), 2000-2004.
- Treasurer, AAUP Massachusetts State Conference, 1996-2000.
- Treasurer, Curry College AAUP Chapter, 1982-1984.
- Professor Emeritus, Communication, Curry College, Milton, Massachusetts.
- Elected Chairperson: Communication Department, 1995-2007; Humanities Division, 1986-1995; Communication Department, 1973-1986.

### **Contract Leadership**

- Chaired two Contract Bargaining Teams, served on four others. Negotiated AAUP Red Book governance section into Contract. Negotiated highest raises in college history. Doubled number of sabbaticals. Increased medical and dental benefits. Negotiated first Contract in Massachusetts that gave full medical, dental benefits and paid sabbaticals to part-time faculty.
- Recruited popular faculty member for AAUP Bargaining Team. This faculty member became College's next President. He is serving today.

### **Dedicated Service to the AAUP**

- Chair, A.S.C. Awards Committee, spring, 2005.
- Member, National AAUP Election Procedures Review Task Force, fall, 2004-2005.
- Member, National AAUP Nominating Committee, 2003, 2004.
- Member, AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress (C.B.C.) Nominating Committee, 1992-1993.
- Parliamentarian, AAUP C.B.C. Meetings, December, 2004; June, 2004; June, 2003.
- Parliamentarian, AAUP National Council Meeting, November, 2002.
- Massachusetts Conference AAUP Executive Committee, 1994-Present.
- Massachusetts State Conference Committee "A" member, 1998-Present. Informed faculty at various colleges in Massachusetts about tenure and promotion rights.
- Chapter Delegate to 15 Annual AAUP Meetings and to 14 C.B.C. Meetings.
- Massachusetts Conference Delegate to 14 A.S.C. Annual Meetings.