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Biography

Greetings! I am providing the following information about my professional background. I earned a doctorate and master's degree in counselor education from Western Michigan University. I have a second master's of education degree in college student affairs leadership from Grand Valley State University and a bachelor's degree in communications from DePaul University. I am an Associate Professor of Counselor Education at Western Michigan University (WMU). In this role, I teach graduate students who are pursuing master's and doctoral degrees in counselor education. I was trained as a professional counselor and am a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the state of Michigan. I am a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC) and hold an Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) certification. Both credentials were issued by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). Prior to joining the faculty, I served as a college counselor for six years. I am a member of the following professional associations: American Counseling Association, American College Counseling Association, and Association of Humanistic Counseling. And I am a member of two professional honor societies: Chi Sigma Iota and Phi Kappa Phi. I am also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the first Greek letter organization for college-trained African American women.

I have been a member of the WMU Chapter of the AAUP, a Collective Bargaining Congress (CBC) since 2007 when I joined the faculty at Western Michigan University. I have served in various leadership roles within the chapter. I was a member of the grievance committee and represented the Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology Department (CECP) as the Associative Council Representative for over five years. Currently, I am serving as a member of the 2020 Contract Negotiation Team. Additionally, I was awarded two fellowships by the AAUP to participate in two Summer Institutes.

Candidate Statement

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) was founded on advocating for shared governance and protecting academic freedom for faculty. I am extremely proud to be a member of this democratic association. As such, I am running for the At-Large Council Member position to be a voice at the national level on protecting academic freedom and strengthening shared governance for faculty at higher education institutions across this country. Many faculty are seeing an erosion of these two entities on their campuses. We are seeing decreases in tenure-track faculty lines, decreases in funding for travel, decreases in spending toward
academic areas and decreases in internal and external funding opportunities. While at the same
time, faculty are seeing increases in salaries for the administration and athletic programs,
increases in the number of employed administrators and increases in the cost of higher
education. I want to work with the AAUP national office leadership to develop a strategy to
bring faculty voices back to the forefront so that we can engaged in true shared governance to
work together with administrators to solve the problems facing higher education.

Secondly, I am running for the At-Large Council Member position to ensure that diverse voices
of faculty, including those of color and women, are not only conveyed to the national office but
also such voices are a central aspect of the AAUP national strategy. We are stronger as faculty
and an association when we have all voices presented and reflected in our policies, practices,
strategies and procedures. The AAUP represent a diverse faculty across the country and its
leadership should reflect it.