

## **Candidate Statement -- Henry "Hank" Reichman**

On November 9, 2016, immediately following the election of Donald Trump, I was asked to draft a response from the AAUP. That response was crafted in just hours and before the day was over we had pledged the AAUP to:

1) oppose the privatization of our public higher education system and fight for higher education as a common good, accessible and affordable to all;

2) oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or national origin and fight for an equitable and welcoming educational environment;

3) oppose attacks on unions and the economic security of faculty and staff and fight for the rights of everyone engaged in teaching and research, whether on the tenure track or in contingent or graduate employee positions, full- or part-time;

4) oppose violations of academic freedom and the broader rights to free expression in the academic community and fight for strengthened protections for and renewed commitment to academic freedom and shared governance.

These noble and critical goals must remain central to the AAUP's program today. But to these four programmatic planks I would today add a fifth: Oppose the ongoing assault on knowledge and the "movement to attack the disciplines and institutions that produce the knowledge that sustains American democracy." These quoted words come from the powerful statement *In Defense of Knowledge and Higher Education*, prepared by Committee A last fall and released by the AAUP in January. I am proud to have chaired Committee A since 2012 and to have participated in the subcommittee that prepared this statement, which concludes with a pledge "to safeguard freedom of

inquiry and of teaching against both covert and overt attacks and to guarantee the long-established practices and principles that define knowledge production."

Under what in my book, *The Future of Academic Freedom*, I label the Trump regime, privatization, discrimination, and attacks on unions, academic freedom, free expression, and expert knowledge have metastasized like cancerous growths on our democracy in general and our profession in particular. The Janus decision imperiled the AAUP's ability to stand firm against and mobilize opposition to such attacks. In response, the Council and membership have wisely chosen to restructure our organization so that we are more efficient and more capable of devoting our resources to supporting chapters and conferences and building membership.

Now, however, amidst a global pandemic whose economic and political consequences may be dire, the hard work of implementation has begun. We must be careful to move forward deliberately but with flexibility. No reform anywhere has ever been perfect; adaptation and amendment are always needed, but patience is also important. My experience over the past decade in multiple AAUP leadership roles, visiting dozens of campuses and as a nationally recognized expert on academic freedom, can bring to the Council valuable experience, expertise in defending our core values of academic freedom and shared governance, and a proven history of tireless work on behalf of the AAUP.

## **Biography -- Henry "Hank" Reichman**

I have served as Chair of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure since 2012. Since 2014 I have chaired the AAUP Foundation. From 2012 to 2018 I was First Vice-President; since November I serve as Second Vice-President. Previously, I served on the AAUP Council and as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. Last year my book, *The Future of Academic Freedom*, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press. It recently won the Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award, which honors the best work on intellectual freedom published in the previous two years, by the American Library Association. I speak regularly at AAUP state conference and chapter meetings and have organized numerous conference panels on academic freedom. Last October I delivered the annual Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic Freedom at the University of Michigan (<https://youtu.be/NiDPQhsoNx0>). I was principal author of AAUP's 2013 policy on *Academic Freedom and Electronic Communications* and of the 2017 report, *National Security, The Assault on Science, and Academic Freedom*. I led academic freedom investigations at the University of Illinois and the University of Missouri and have led sessions at the last seven Summer Institutes. I am a co-editor of the AAUP's *Academe* blog, where I've posted over 500 entries. I guest edited the Fall issue of *Academe*, devoted to academic freedom around the world. I am a member of the California Faculty Association and served for nine years on its collective bargaining team. I taught history for 25 years at the California State University where I played leading roles in my campus and system academic senates. An historian of Russia and the Soviet Union, I earned the PhD at the University of California, Berkeley. I retired from teaching in 2015 to devote my time to serving the AAUP.