

Report of the 2017 Annual Conference

From June 14 to 18, 2017, the AAUP hosted its Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education in Washington, DC. The 103rd Annual Meeting of the AAUP and the regular business meeting of the AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress were held in conjunction with the conference.

This year's conference marked the fiftieth anniversary of the *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students*, issued in 1967 by the AAUP and four other organizations, with a series of sessions on student activism and free-speech issues. On Thursday evening, conference participants attended a screening of *A Time to Stir*, a documentary about the 1968 student protests at Columbia University. A panel discussion with filmmaker Paul Cronin, historian Ellen Schrecker, journalist Juan González, and AAUP first vice president Henry Reichman followed the screening.

The Friday plenary luncheon speaker was Ibram X. Kendi, professor of history and international relations and founding director of the Anti-Racist Research and Policy Center at American University. Professor Kendi discussed his book *Stamped from the Beginning: A Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, which won the 2016 National Book Award for Nonfiction. The book grew out of his research on student activists who began to call for the creation of black studies programs in 1967, challenging “traditional notions of what racism is” and initiating what Professor Kendi characterized as a “three-way debate” between segregationist, assimilationist, and antiracist ideas. While segregationist and assimilationist ideas represent black people as inferior by nature



Ibram X. Kendi



Marjorie Heins and Harry Keyishian

on the one hand and by nurture on the other, anti-racist ideas view “racial groups as equal in spite of physical and cultural differences.”

Saturday's luncheon celebrated this year's award recipients and provided an opportunity for the Association to honor its fifty-year members for their five decades of continuous membership. Special guest Harry Keyishian, professor emeritus of English at Fairleigh Dickinson University, was recognized at the luncheon for his role as lead plaintiff in the landmark 1967 US Supreme Court case *Keyishian v. Board of Regents*. In that case, the Court ruled against New York's loyalty oath for public employees and established academic freedom as a “special concern” of the First Amendment. Marjorie Heins, founder of the Free Expression Policy Project and author of *Priests of Our Democracy: The Supreme Court, Academic Freedom, and the Anti-Communist Purge*, introduced Professor Keyishian and commented on the impact of the 5–4 opinion, written by William Brennan. Professor Keyishian thanked the AAUP for “defending professional standards and our precious tradition of academic freedom” and for providing legal and financial support for his case.

Photographs from the conference are available at <https://www.flickr.com/aaup>.

AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress



Gordon Lafer

Gordon Lafer, associate professor in the University of Oregon's Labor Education and Research Center, was the featured speaker at the AAUP-CBC dinner. In his presentation, "The Corporate Assault on Higher Education," Professor Lafer discussed the concerted efforts by right-wing groups to reshape America's colleges and universities.

He noted that "higher education is dangerous because it raises expectations," whereas the right is engaged in a "campaign of lowering expectations" that normalizes downward mobility.

John Zipp, professor of sociology at the University of Akron, was the recipient of this year's Marilyn Sternberg Award. The Sternberg Award recognizes AAUP members who "demonstrate concern for human rights, courage, persistence, political foresight, imagination, and collective bargaining skills." As president of the University of Akron AAUP chapter, Professor Zipp led his chapter through a contentious and difficult contract negotiation. At a time when the university faced economic challenges resulting from years of administrative overspending and mismanagement, Professor Zipp helped the chapter win a favorable contract and defeat post-tenure review and retrenchment provisions proposed by the administration.

During its regular business meeting, the AAUP-CBC honored outgoing chair Howard Bunsis for his years of dedicated service. Bunsis is particularly known for the institutional financial analyses that he has conducted for many AAUP chapters.

The results of the AAUP-CBC election are printed elsewhere in this issue in "Officers and Committees of the AAUP-CBC."



Howard Bunsis

Capitol Hill Day

On June 15, AAUP members visited Capitol Hill to lobby their senators and representatives on issues of importance to higher education. As part of Capitol Hill Day, a delegation of members delivered a letter of support for the College for All Act, signed by about two thousand faculty members and higher education supporters, to Representative Pramila Jayapal of Washington, who serves as the vice ranking member of the House Budget Committee and was the sponsor of the act in the House of Representatives. Copies of the letter were also delivered to Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio and to education staffers at the offices of Senators Bernie Sanders (the ranking member on the Senate Budget Committee and cosponsor of the act), Elizabeth Warren, and Chuck Schumer. The College for All Act would make four-year public college free for families making less than \$125,000 and community college free for all. AAUP members also delivered a petition opposing the Trump administration's budget proposal—which would have a devastating impact on student aid, the arts and humanities, scientific research, and international education—to the offices of Senator Brown and Senator Sanders. The petition was signed by more than nine thousand AAUP members and supporters.

Capitol Hill Day ended with a reception at the Rayburn House Office Building, where Representative Pramila Jayapal addressed the crowd and discussions continued between AAUP members and congressional staff.

Censure Actions

Delegates to the annual meeting voted to place the Community College of Aurora (Colorado) and Spalding University (Kentucky) on the Association's list of censured administrations. The annual meeting also voted to remove from the censure list two institutions that had taken the necessary steps to address the AAUP's outstanding concerns: Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Censure by the AAUP informs the academic community that the administration of an institution has not adhered to generally recognized principles of academic freedom and tenure. Fifty-six institutions are currently on the censure list.

The *Report of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, 2016–17*, included elsewhere in this issue, contains the statements to the annual meeting on the imposition and removal of censure.

Georgina M. Smith Award

Established in 1979 to honor the memory of a Rutgers University professor who was a committed feminist, an AAUP leader, and a strong supporter of her faculty



Susan Fountain

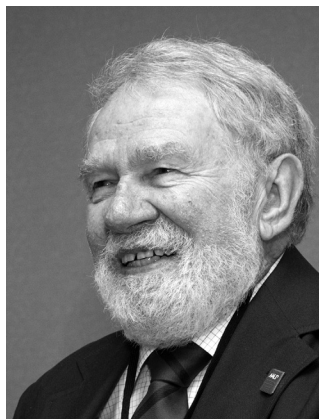
union, the Georgina M. Smith award is presented “to a person who has provided exceptional leadership in the past year in improving the status of academic women or in advancing collective bargaining and through that work has improved the profession in general.” Susan Fountain, adjunct professor of human relations in the City

University of New York School of Professional Studies, received the 2017 Georgina M. Smith Award. The award was given in recognition of Professor Fountain’s outstanding work with CUNY’s faculty union, the Professional Staff Congress, to challenge poor working conditions in the School of Professional Studies—which depends almost entirely on adjunct faculty labor—and to ensure the safety of drinking water in the school’s facilities.

Outstanding Achievement Award

The AAUP established the new Outstanding Achievement Award to recognize chapter- or conference-level work that advances academic freedom or shared governance. Charles Baker, professor of French and film at the College of the Holy Cross, received the 2017

Outstanding Achievement Award. Since joining the AAUP in 1958, Professor Baker has been a tireless advocate for academic freedom and shared governance, and his pragmatic approach to problem solving has helped to ensure the continuing health of both his AAUP chapter and the Massachusetts AAUP conference.



Charles Baker

Special Committee on Climate Change

AAUP president Rudy Fichtenbaum reported that the Council, while not concurring in the resolution on climate change adopted by the 102nd Annual Meeting, had created a special committee “to research how American colleges and universities can best address the grave threat posed by climate change.” The committee will report to the Council at its November meeting.

Resolutions

The 103rd Annual Meeting approved four resolutions. The first two expressed appreciation to Steve Greatorex and Caryl Schiff-Greatorex upon their retirements after forty-one years of service to the Connecticut State University AAUP chapters. The third expressed deep concern about the state budget problems that have devastated higher education in Illinois and called on Governor Rauner and the Illinois General Assembly to do what is best for students, faculty, staff, and people of Illinois by passing a budget to immediately restore full higher education funding. The fourth expressed strong opposition to huge and disproportionate cuts to the University of Puerto Rico made by the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act.

Constitutional Amendment

The 103rd Annual Meeting approved the following amendment to article III, section 7, of the Constitution of the American Association of University Professors (the amended language is in bold):

7. Officers shall receive no salary, but they shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties. This provision shall not prevent the Association from compensating officers’ institutions, **or compensating directly officers who are part-time faculty members for salary of up to one course per semester**, for release time from teaching or other assigned duties attributable to the officers’ participation in Association matters.

The amended constitution is printed in full after this report.

Fifty-Year AAUP Members

Mercedes M. Agogino
Eastern New Mexico
University

Burton L. Alperson
California State
University, Los Angeles

Kenneth E. Andersen
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Thomas P. Barrett
California State
University, Stanislaus

John H. Block
Oregon State University

James R. Bruce
Hendrix College

Gordon M. Burghardt
University of Tennessee

Harry J. Busselen
California Polytechnic
State University—San Luis
Obispo

Ronald L. Carlson
University of Georgia

Nathaniel Chafee
Georgia Institute of
Technology

Charles E. Curran
Southern Methodist
University

Robert F. Diffendal
University of Nebraska—
Lincoln

John L. Di Gaetani
Hofstra University

Rudolph V. Dusek
University of New
Hampshire

Laurence R. Dusold
University of Maryland
University College

Frank J. Dye
Western Connecticut
State University

Eric O. Feigl
University of Washington

Matthew W. Finkin
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Jorge Garcia-Gomez
Coram, NY

Raymond Gay-Crosier
University of Florida

David E. Gibson
Pepperdine University

Robert Gorman
University of
Pennsylvania

Raquel Maria Halty
Simmons College

Beverly A. Heckart
Central Washington
University

J. Robert Hippensteele
Illinois Wesleyan
University

Raymond J. Jirran
Thomas Nelson
Community College

Carol R. Kelly
Hamline University

Gloria J. Kiester
Saint Olaf College

Scott A. Kleiner
University of Georgia

Richard H. Kohn
University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sheldon G. Levy
Wayne State University

Daniel C. Maguire
Marquette University

Eugene P. Masek
Southwestern Illinois
College

J. Peter May
University of Chicago

John R. McLane
Northwestern University

Robert I. Mendelsohn
Adelphi University

Allan A. Metcalf
MacMurray College

Danny R. Moates
Ohio University

Thomas D. Morris
Portland State University

Estel W. Nafziger
Kansas State University

Luis E. Navia
New York Institute
of Technology—Old
Westbury

Gustav F. Papanek
Boston University

Dwight H. Perkins
Harvard University

Charles L. Perrin
University of California,
San Diego

Roland C. Petersen
University of California,
Davis

William F. Pickard
Washington University in
St. Louis

Joseph G. Rosenstein
Rutgers University—New
Brunswick

Mildred A. Schwartz
University of Illinois at
Chicago

Charles T. Scott
University of Wisconsin—
Madison

Robert A. Sedler
Wayne State University

Simon D. Silver
University of Illinois at
Chicago

Trumbull L. Simmons
Harrisburg Area
Community College

Robert L. Simon
Hamilton College

Donald J. Weinsbank
Michigan State University

Paul S. Weiss
City University of New
York Queensborough
Community College

Thomas B. Whitbread
University of Texas at
Austin