

Afshan Jafar, PhD
Biography and Selected AAUP Service

Afshan Jafar (PhD, UMass-Amherst) is professor of sociology at Connecticut College. Her teaching and research interests are in globalization, Muslim diaspora, gender, media, and the body. She also writes about academic governance and experiences of women and under-represented minorities in academia. She is the author of "Women's NGOs in Pakistan" (2011) and the co-editor (with Erynn Masi de Casanova) of "Global Beauty, Local Bodies" (2013) and "Bodies Without Borders" (2013). Her scholarship has appeared in *Teaching Sociology*, *Gender & Society*, *Social Problems*, *Academe*, and *Gender Issues*. Her public scholarship has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *LA Review of Books*, *Inside Higher Ed*, and *Ms. Magazine*, among others.

Afshan Jafar was the recipient of the 2021 Helen B. Regan Faculty Leadership Award at Connecticut College and the recipient of the 2015 Feminist Activism Award from *Sociologists for Women in Society* (SWS). She serves the AAUP at the national, state, and local levels (please see below). She has been an active member of the Connecticut College faculty over the last 14 years, serving for five years on the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee, including a term as Chair. She has also served on the Committee on the Status of Faculty Women; the Committee for Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure; and the Dean of the Faculty Review Committee among others.

National AAUP:

2022 Co-Chair, Special Committee to the University of North Carolina

2021-Present Member, Committee on College and University Governance

Connecticut AAUP Conference:

2020-Present At-Large Member, Executive Committee

Connecticut College AAUP Chapter:

2018-Present President

2016-2018 Vice President

2014-2016 President

2012-13 Membership Officer

Afshan Jafar, PhD
Candidate Statement

I wholeheartedly embrace serving for the greater good and strengthening faculty voice in academia. This was perhaps inevitable, given that my childhood was spent under a military dictatorship in Pakistan. As a teenager, I saw the rebirth of democracy in Pakistan (as unstable and tentative as it was), and it transformed my sense of citizenship along with my understanding of the obligations that come with the freedom to choose and the freedom to have a voice. As I reflect on my professional service, I realize that these early experiences have motivated me to be an engaged citizen of academia and have shaped the kinds of work that I engage in.

Some of the committees that I have served on include: Committee on the Status of Faculty Women (CSFW); the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee (FSCC); Committee on Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure (CAPT); the AAUP chapter and the AAUP CT Conference. In 2012, I was elected to the FSCC as its only untenured member; the only woman; and the only faculty of color. I was re-elected for the next five years, including as chair in 2017, when I served as the first (and so far, only) faculty of color to chair that committee. During my term, the faculty made significant progress toward increasing equity and inclusion, and strengthening governance. Some successes included: removing the college President from the role of Presider at faculty meetings; limiting attendance at faculty meetings to those with faculty status only; extending the benefit of sabbaticals to (untenured) senior lecturers; reducing the teaching load for visitors to match that of full-time, tenured faculty in order to reduce exploitation and over-reliance on such positions; and revising tenure and promotion standards with an eye toward equity and acknowledging invisible and differential labor.

I have served as an AAUP chapter President on my campus for many years, as a member of the Connecticut State Conference Executive Committee for the last two years, and currently serve on the Committee on College and University Governance at the national level. I was appointed co-chair of the Special Committee on the University of North Carolina system in September, 2021. The task of this committee was to report on the persistent and egregious violations of principles of academic governance along with patterns of institutional racism within the UNC system. The report of the special committee is forthcoming and it is my hope that it will not only serve to highlight the conditions at UNC, but that it will also serve to inspire faculty (at UNC and beyond) toward collective action. The work of this committee was daunting, challenging, and deeply meaningful. I hope to continue participating in future investigations or special committees if called upon by the AAUP.

If elected to represent Region 5 on the Council, I will bring my commitment and enthusiasm for strengthening principles of academic freedom, tenure, and governance, as well as my dedication to increasing equity and inclusion in academia.