James Davis, Brooklyn College (City University of New York)

Candidate Statement:

　　As an active AAUP member since 2009, I am eager to serve as District VIII member of National Council. I have taught at Brooklyn College since 2003 and served as Chapter Chair for the Professional Staff Congress (PSC-CUNY), the faculty and staff union, since 2015. Before becoming Chapter Chair, I served on Brooklyn College's chapter Executive Committee and two terms on the AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress Executive Committee (2011-2015). I'm also New York State AAUP Collective Bargaining Committee chair. I am an organizer, a listener, and a strong advocate for shared governance, job security, and academic freedom. I have helped defend faculty against coordinated alt-right smear campaigns, led initiatives to improve facilities safety on my crumbling campus, organized colleagues around adjunct equity, and served on a negotiating team that reduced the teaching load across the CUNY system for all full-time faculty. I see the AAUP as an increasingly vital organization as the profession responds not only to flagrant infringements on individual faculty rights but also to the ongoing effort to delegitimize academia and scholarship more broadly. As chair of one chapter among 24 in an urban public higher education system, I understand the importance of attending to the complexity and diversity of a large, historic institution, such as the AAUP. Finally, I have appreciated the AAUP's efforts in recent years to bring younger faculty and faculty of color into affiliation and hope to continue that work with the elected leadership.

Academic Bio:
- Professor of English & American Studies, Brooklyn College
- Deputy Chair for Graduate Studies, English Department
- Ph.D. Indiana University, B.A. Oberlin College
- Recipient of Leon Levy Center for the Study of Biography Fellowship, Brooklyn College Claire Tow Distinguished Teacher Award
- Author of two academic monographs and multiple articles in American literature