

I am running for the AAUP Council because of my commitment to finding common ground and mutual respect between contingent and tenure-line faculty, and to strengthen the principles of tenure and academic freedom for all faculty. I am in my 40th year as a faculty member in Music at Pacific Lutheran University, and although it has not been easy, I have enjoyed my vocation as a mentor and teacher of young adults who, despite the obvious pressures against them—rising tuition, no good job prospects, and the extensive demands placed on them to become well-trained—have still wanted to find their life in the arts and humanities.

I have deep concerns about my colleagues who are contingent faculty and are the large majority of academics in the arts and humanities. Many are barely holding themselves together, needing better pay, health insurance, adequate teaching resources, and job security. Without job security, our academic freedom is limited to “what can I say and teach that does not jeopardize my ability to be re-hired next year?” Through the Pacific Lutheran AAUP chapter, we did an extensive campus-wide survey of our contingent faculty, and the results were devastating, with comments like *“This is death to myself and my family, to constantly be in a state of uncertainty about where my employment will be.”*

We did try to unionize our institution which resulted in the NLRB Pacific Lutheran decision of 2014 giving faculty the right to unionize at ‘religious-affiliated’ institutions. Our effort is still temporarily suspended. My vision is that we need to be one faculty, to overcome the conflict that has been created by the division of faculty into two tiers. Contingent faculty need a role in governance and a Voting Rights Act. All long-term faculty need to be eligible for tenure and the rights and responsibilities that come with it. And most importantly, faculty need to value each other, contingent and tenure-line alike, because the success of our institutions depends on all of us. AAUP can lead the way in that effort if we have the will to do so.

Jane Harty

Jane Harty has served as a Senior Lecturer on the Music faculty of Pacific Lutheran University since 1978. In addition to courses in Piano and Chamber Music, she was awarded a course development grant for “Music of Resistance: The European Holocaust and Russian Great Purge,” to be taught in 2018. She did post-graduate study at L’Ecole Normale de Musique, Paris, in the classes of Nadia Boulanger, the foremost teacher of American 20th-century composers. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Keyboard Studies and Aesthetics/Art Criticism from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Harty is an active and diverse recitalist of solo and chamber music repertoire, as both a pianist and harpsichordist. In addition to her duties at Pacific Lutheran, she is also the Artistic Director of the Music Northwest Concert Series in Seattle whose mission is “to expand cultural understanding through the appreciation of different genres of music.” She has commissioned several new works for piano from outstanding Northwest composers, including Pulitzer Prize winner, John Luther Adams. She also serves as the Director of the Music Northwest Chamber Music Intensives for youth and adults, generously funded by ACMP, a Manhattan-based foundation for the support of life-long chamber music. She is the grand-niece of Sir Hamilton Harty, the “Irish Toscanini,” and is an international specialist in his music.

As an academic labor leader at Pacific Lutheran, she co-authored a comprehensive report on a survey of the contingent faculty at PLU, sponsored by AAUP. She has served as the campus AAUP Liaison for Affiliate Concerns, and, in that capacity, has interfaced extensively with students, faculty, and administrators. She was a lead activist in the effort to establish a faculty union at Pacific Lutheran, which resulted in the 2014 NLRB decision to allow faculty at religious-affiliated universities to unionize.