

Josephine McQuail

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Bio: I earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from University of Virginia in English, and a Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley and then was hired in a tenure track job at TTU as Assistant Professor of English; I am now a full professor of English and tenured. At Berkeley was head of the student-run ASUC Recycling Project and in the *Slingshot* Collective – an alternative zine. At TTU, upon entering the profession full time, I realized the vital importance of professional organizations and have been active since being hired in a tenure track position.

In my local TTU group I have served in many capacities. In the Tennessee State Conference, I served as VP of 4 Year Public Universities and am currently serving as state conference president. I served as secretary of the ASC of the AAUP from 2014-2016. I have enforced solidarity between other activist groups like the Tennessee Education Association (TEA, the state division of NEA) and United Campus Workers by calling for joint meetings and speakers. In 2014 the AAUP sponsored a speaker on privatization of public universities, and the speaker I found spoke at Middle Tennessee State, TTU, and at our state conference meeting in Nashville, attracting a good crowd, and energizing several different chapters, as well as the conference. In TEA, I am finishing a term as Higher Education representative on the Board of Directors, and have contributed to the revitalization of its the Higher Ed committee. This summer I will present at the AAUP annual conference with other regional directors (from Georgia and Virginia) on the conference theme of Free Speech. I have served as delegate for the Assembly of State conferences and as well as a Chapter and a State Conference delegate several times over the years at the AAUP annual conference.

Candidate statement: Higher Education is more and more the target of attack from powerful and wealthy people who wish to manipulate the public. We must fight to point out the value and relevance of a liberal arts education if university education as we know it today is to survive. We must find a way to support contingent faculty while attempting to preserve and promote tenured positions in American higher education. There is no other organization in this country that does what the American Association of University Professors does for higher education. As the tee shirt our local chapter made recently proclaims: “The AAUP has your back.” I passionately believe in the AAUP and I hope to serve on the Council so that I may contribute even more to the vital mission of the AAUP in the United States today.