

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT / KEVIN L. COPE

Thanking colleagues in District V for electing me to the AAUP National Council, I ask to continue serving AAUP members through reelection to a new term. Working with the Council, I have been able to keep campaign pledges and develop new goals—to test an evolving vision of a future AAUP against the hard realities tackled by AAUP leaders.

Hopes and goals: Given current economic and political pressures, the AAUP must increase its membership and persuade colleagues that engaging in advocacy will assist the AAUP “one faculty.” Broadening participation requires intensified outreach to advocacy chapters such as those in District V and integration of efforts in union and “right to work” states. If reelected, I shall encourage AAUP leaders to improve communication, whether by allowing Council members to send updates directly to constituents or by restyling *Academe* magazine or by mounting membership drives among faculty who may not feel themselves part of AAUP. AAUP needs a geographical diversification program that includes the rotating of AAUP meeting locations and the cultivating of leadership in the regions. Our organization should find better ways to interact with the varied faculty governance entities in regional America. District V Council members can help the AAUP build strength among our distinguished HBCUs. I would like to increase the value of AAUP membership by improving member benefit programs and through regional workshops on topics such as retirement planning.

My Council service has yielded results. Southeastern colleagues joined with me in halting a redistricting proposal that would have lumped together District V with large collective-bargaining states, thereby diluting our voice. I co-organized visits by AAUP and other labor leaders to campuses in our region and co-organized an Assembly of State Conferences workshop. Currently, I am collaborating with faculty governance units in Alabama by way of creating a regional governance exchange. I helped a state AAUP chapter integrate with two other statewide faculty networks. The visibility and influence of District V has thus risen.

I hope that you will honor me with reelection so that I may continue to put District V at the forefront of successful faculty advocacy movements.

## BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT / KEVIN L. COPE

I serve as the Adams Professor of English Literature and Member of the Comparative Literature Faculty at Louisiana State University, where I joined the faculty in 1983. After completing doctoral study at Harvard, I embarked on a long career in eighteenth-century studies, publishing three books and a dozen volumes, founding a journal, editing an annual bibliography, writing several dozen articles, receiving assorted fellowships, reviewing manuscripts for numerous publishers, and organizing several conferences. Faculty and administration colleagues have honored me with the LSU Distinguished Research Master award—the highest research honor conferred by my university.

Since 2004, I have been ardently engaged in faculty governance, beginning as a member of my college policy committee, joining the university Faculty Senate, becoming Senate Vice-President, and serving for an unprecedented ten years as both Faculty Senate President and Chair of the LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors. Seven years ago, I took on an additional role as Vice-President of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates, the voice of the 8,000 lively faculty members who work in a state challenged by severe economic and infrastructure problems.

Along with generous colleagues, I have led many initiatives that have favorably impacted higher education. I developed a series of statewide “summit meetings” that have, for eight years, brought together faculty members from every kind of institution, top-level administrators, and politicians. As Chair of the Louisiana General Education Committee, I led the creation of a major transfer degree program. I have served on budget committees; on benefit task forces; on master planning boards; on committees concerned with retention, graduation rate, and accreditation; on numerous executive search committees; and on many state-level panels.

I hope that my broad academic and governance experience, most of which derived from listening to competent, friendly colleagues, will help me serve the profession through the AAUP.