

## Lynn Tatum: Council District II

AAUP saved my career. So I want to give back...

In 2001, rumors began circulating that Baylor's president was contemplating firing ("non-renewing") one or more of our university's "Senior Lecturers". He made public comments that he did not feel constrained by AAUP policies. As AAUP chapter president, I met with the president and asserted our concerns about our opposition to the dismissal of faculty at the sole discretion of the president. He refused to commit to AAUP principles, and so our local chapter continued to worry....

At 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2001, the legal deadline for any non-renewals to be issued, I was in my office when a senior administrator entered my office and hand-delivered a letter from the president—I was being fired. In follow-up meetings, all administrators acknowledged that I had excellent student evaluations as well as fifteen straight years of positive administrative reviews. However, they argued that, lecturers served at the pleasure of the president. They insisted that my role as AAUP president and my advocacy of academic freedom was not the issue.... I didn't believe them then; I don't believe them now.

But the story ends happily. After the national head of AAUP confronted the Baylor administration, I was issued a contract (with a pay raise, I might add). I was told that my "termination" had been a "clerical error." Even better news, after a two-year battle, in which AAUP played a major role, the Baylor president was removed. And in a point of *karma*, I was elected by the faculty senate *and* selected by the chair of the Board of Regents to advise the Board on the replacement of the president.

SO I KNOW! I know how important it is to fight for good policies, good procedures, and good practices. Subsequently, I have increased my involvement with AAUP: at the local level (two more years as chapter president), at the state level (two terms as state president), and at the national level (Council member 2002-2005 and currently ASC Executive Committee). I would be honored to continue the good fight.

## **Lynn Tatum: Candidate District II**

### **National AAUP award:**

Recipient of AAUP's David Tacey Award for outstanding service. The award was bestowed for work reversing a series of improper faculty terminations at Baylor University.

### **Academic Appointment:**

Associate Director Middle East Studies;  
Senior Lecturer in archaeology and religion in the Honors College, Baylor University.

### **Education:**

Ph.D. Duke University;  
Additional work: Hebrew University (Jerusalem);  
B.A. Baylor University.

### **National AAUP Service (select):**

Instructor/Facilitator at numerous AAUP/ASC workshops on shared governance.  
Executive Committee: Association of State Conferences—Member at Large (2014-2018)  
Co-coordinator of AAUP's 2000 national conference on Academic Freedom at Religious Colleges and Universities  
Elected to Council (2002-2005)  
Elected to the Executive Committee of the Association of State Conferences (2012-2014);  
Appointed to the national Grievance Committee (2004-2005);  
Appointed to national Nominating Committee (2003).

### **State Service (select):**

President: Texas Conference 1998-2000, I was elected for a second time as state president (2006-2008).  
Repeatedly elected to the Texas Conference Executive Committee (1996-present)  
Coordinator of state lobbying against guns-on-campus.  
Chair the Texas Conference Committee A.  
Instructor at numerous ASC training workshops;  
Presenter at numerous state conferences.  
Currently serve as treasurer of the Texas Conference

### **Local Service (select):**

Numerous terms as Baylor Chapter President  
Featured in the alumni association's magazine as one of Baylor's chief advocates for shared governance.

### **Academic Areas of Interest:**

I teach in several "controversial" areas which inevitably raise issues of academic freedom: Middle Eastern Studies; Bible and Science; and Academic Freedom at Religious Universities.

From the beginning of my career, I realized the absolute necessity for academic freedom protections. Much of my academic work has related to academic freedom and its nexus with religious ideology and with science. I have been invited to numerous universities, both domestically and internationally, to speak on these topics.