

Monica Black
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Candidate for AAUP Council, District V (Alabama, Arkansas, Canada, District of Columbia, Florida, Foreign, Georgia, Guam, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Virgin Islands, and West Virginia)

Candidate Bio

Monica Black is Associate Professor of History at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She earned her PhD at the University of Virginia (2006). Before arriving at UTK in 2011, she taught for three years at Furman University in South Carolina, where she joined AAUP almost as soon as she was hired. Black has sat on the Executive Committee of UTK's AAUP chapter for the last two years and assumed the (one-year) position of chapter president in 2017. She has served as Associate Head of her department at UTK since 2013. She is also a Faculty Senator, the chair of the Senate's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, a member of the Senate's Executive Council, and a member of the UTK chapter of United Campus Workers.

Black's area of research specialization is the cultural and social history of twentieth-century Germany.

Candidate Statement

I became a member of AAUP in 2008, when a kind senior colleague took me aside and explained what the organization is and what it does. Now that I am the senior colleague, I would like to return the favor, helping to communicate to various faculty constituencies AAUP's significance to all of us in higher education, especially now.

We know that colleges and universities are under intense pressure nationally both from within and without — financially, ideologically, and structurally. District V, for which I seek election to the AAUP Council, has its own, local challenges. Many of the district's constituents are "right to work" states with legislatures that have become increasingly interventionist in the affairs of higher education in recent years.

Having a strong AAUP presence at all the institutions of higher education in District V is of fundamental importance to protect the principles of shared governance and academic freedom that are the cornerstone of the academy's commitment to free inquiry and the production of knowledge. If elected, I will do all I can to help boost the visibility and effectiveness of AAUP throughout District V, in elite and non-elite institutions, two-year and four-year, research-intensive and teaching-emphasis, public and private. I will do all I can to work for justice and equity for all of us who teach in higher education, tenure stream and non-tenure stream alike.

