

Report of the 2022 Conference and Biennial Meeting

The 2022 AAUP Conference and Biennial Meeting took place in Arlington, Virginia, from June 16 to 19. Because the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the cancellation of the 2020 AAUP conference and the postponement of the biennial meeting, which was held in November 2020 by teleconference, this was the first in-person conference and biennial meeting since the restructuring actions that were approved at the Association's 2019 annual meeting and took effect on January 1, 2020.

This year's conference program included an opening plenary session with a panel of higher education reporters; presentations on the AAUP's racial equity initiative and recent AAUP research on academic freedom,



▲ Randi Weingarten

tenure, and governance; discussions on issues in remote teaching, demystifying academic freedom and defending tenure, and on organizing across ranks to support faculty on contingent appointments; discussions for advocacy

and collective bargaining chapters; a training session on government relations; meetings for state conference leaders and field staff; a question-and-answer session on delegate voting and the elections process; and an expo featuring AAUP programs and publications and a Johns Hopkins University Press table with books of interest to AAUP members.

The Friday luncheon featured a keynote address, "The Fight for Higher Education: If Not Us, Who?," by Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO. She spoke about the critical role of higher education in sustaining a strong democracy and stressed the importance of exercising "muscles of activism" and of harnessing the power of AAUP principles, shared governance, collective action, and active contract enforcement. Declaring

that "when we do things together, we are better than the sum of our parts," Weingarten outlined four key priorities for academic activists to focus on: protecting academic freedom; counteracting dramatic increases in non-tenure-track faculty positions and insisting that "one job should be enough"; demanding that higher education become more affordable and accessible; and advocating for free public higher education.

The awards and recognition luncheon on Saturday provided an occasion for the Association to celebrate this year's award recipients and to honor its fifty-year members. It also featured an address by US Department of Education under secretary for higher education James Kvaal, following a short video with introductory remarks by secretary



▲ James Kvaal

of education Miguel Cardona. Kvaal spoke about the department's work to support colleges and universities with pandemic assistance; to provide student loan debt cancellation to Public Service Loan Forgiveness program participants, borrowers with permanent disabilities, and individuals cheated by for-profit colleges; to promote affordability and access to higher education for all students; and to advocate for ongoing improvement in graduation rates. He called for a "culture change" to "prioritize institutions that are inclusive rather than selective"—including community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, and other minority-serving institutions—and to focus more on their outcomes than on their reputations.

Photographs from the conference and biennial meeting are available at <https://www.flickr.com/aaup>.

Biennial Association Meeting

The first plenary session of the biennial meeting on Friday afternoon included business reports, presentation of the candidates for election to the Association's

governing Council, and candidate speeches. The second plenary session on Saturday morning included Council elections; an update on the AAUP's racial equity initiative; and reports of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure and the Committee on College and University Governance. The third plenary session on Saturday afternoon began with an announcement of the Council election results, which appear below. Following a presentation on the Council's recommendation that the AAUP affiliate with the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, and questions and debate about the proposed affiliation, delegates voted on a motion to ratify Council's action, which passed with an overwhelming number of votes. More information about the affiliation is available at <https://www.aaup.org/about/aaupaft-affiliation>. The session also included remarks by AAUP president Irene Mulvey and the report of the resolutions committee. Delegates voted on a resolution that affirms the importance of shared governance during unprecedented emergencies, approving the resolution with several amendments. The full text of the resolution is available at <https://www.aaup.org/resolution-2022>.

Council Election Results

Credentialed delegates representing chapters and state sections cast secret ballots in the AAUP Council election. A list of candidates elected for each Council position appears below. Tallies for all candidates and additional election information are available at <https://aaup.org/2022-election>.

At Large

Ernesto Longa, University of New Mexico

Region 1 (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands)

Antonio Gallo, California State University, Northridge

Region 2 (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgian, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia)

Karin Roseblatt, University of Maryland, College Park

Region 3 (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Canada)

John McNay, University of Cincinnati

Region 4 (New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands)

Donna Murch, Rutgers University

Region 5 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Davarian Baldwin, Trinity College

Georgina M. Smith Award

Established in 1979 to honor the memory of a Rutgers University professor who was a committed feminist, an AAUP leader, and a strong supporter of her faculty union, the Georgina M. Smith Award is presented "to a person who has provided exceptional leadership in a given year in improving the status of academic women or in advancing collective bargaining and through that work has improved the profession in general." Caprice Lawless, an instructor of English at Front Range Community College in Colorado, is the recipient of this year's award. Her nomination noted that she is "an absolute genius in public relations when it comes to explaining and highlighting the plight of adjunct faculty to other academics and the public." Pointing to innovations such as her "adjunct cookbook" and "unhappy hours" that she has shared with other AAUP members, the award committee observed that such strategies are especially valuable for women in the profession because of their overrepresentation among faculty in contingent appointments.

Marilyn Sternberg Award

The Marilyn Sternberg Award recognizes AAUP members who "demonstrate concern for human rights, courage, persistence, political foresight, imagination, and collective bargaining skills." Johanna Foster, associate professor of sociology at Monmouth University, is the recipient of this year's award. Her nomination said, "She is passionate and seemingly tireless in her efforts to create a fair and equitable work environment for all. She is a model for others and a true inspiration." Foster is president of the Faculty Association of Monmouth University and served as chief negotiator in the chapter's recent contract negotiations, which she wrote about with coauthor Marina Vujnovic in a winter 2022 *Academe* article on unionism during the pandemic and in a spring 2022 chapter profile. As the award committee noted, her "leadership builds and harnesses community power to achieve equity for all members and positively impacts the entire university community."

Outstanding Achievement Award

The AAUP established the Outstanding Achievement Award to recognize chapter- or conference-level work to advance academic freedom or shared governance, promote the economic security of academics, help the higher education community organize, and ensure higher education's contribution to the common good. Rachel Ida Buff, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, is the recipient of this year's award. Her nomination called her “an intellectual and organizing force at the chapter, regional, and national

level of AAUP work” and noted that a colleague had characterized her as “truly fearless in championing the AAUP's values.” The award committee lauded Buff's impressive record of service, including her leadership as the founding president of the UW–Milwaukee AAUP chapter, which quickly grew into the largest advocacy chapter in the country, and her role as faculty editor for four volumes of the Association's *Journal of Academic Freedom*. ■

Fifty-Year AAUP Members

Lugene Bailey
Central State University

William L. Barney
University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ernst Benjamin
Wayne State University

Charles E. Breed
Truman State University

Nicholas A. Carbo
Adelphi University

Deborah F. Cooperstein
Adelphi University

Frank Costigliola
University of Connecticut

Thomas Flechtner
No Institutional Affiliation

Chaim Frenkel
Rutgers University–New
Brunswick

Martin Haas
Adelphi University

Michael W. Honhart
University of Rhode
Island

Thomas T. C. Hsu
University of Houston

Denis-Jacques Jean
Hofstra University

Barbara L. Jones
Wayne State University

John F. Kenfield
Rutgers University–New
Brunswick

Casimir A. Kulikowski
Rutgers University–New
Brunswick

Lawrence B. Lombard
Wayne State University

William D. McArthur
Furman University

Donald H. Mershon
North Carolina State
University at Raleigh

Sally M. Moffitt
University of Cincinnati–
Main Campus

Letty Moss-Salentijn
Columbia University in
the City of New York

Joseph Newirth
Adelphi University

Ananda S. Prasad
Wayne State University

Christopher C. H. Rawson
University of Pittsburgh

Peter A. Roberts
Wayne State University

Harold B. Sackrowitz
Rutgers University–New
Brunswick

Elaine S. Sands
Adelphi University

Brent M. Shea
Sweet Briar College

Neil Sheflin
Rutgers University–New
Brunswick

Margaret Silver
Adelphi University

Richard Stagliano
Rutgers University–New
Brunswick

Elizabeth Starčević
City University of New
York, City College

Houston H. Stokes
University of Illinois at
Chicago

William E. Strawderman
Rutgers University–New
Brunswick

Andrew A. Tadie
Seattle University

Robert P. Webber
Longwood University

Rega Wood
Indiana University
Bloomington