

Rubén Martínez
District 3

Bio:

I am a full professor of sociology at Michigan State University and director of the Julian Samora Research Institute. I have taught at five different universities; was president of the Faculty Assembly at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, vice president of the University of Colorado system-wide faculty senate. I served on the Executive Board of the Michigan AAUP for three years and was the vice president for two. I have served as president of a professional association and have visited numerous campuses on accreditation visits, where I gained knowledge of a broad spectrum of shared governance models.

Statement:

Our public universities are being transformed into corporate-like institutions in which shared governance is diminished by the centralization of authority and decision-making. Metrics and other performance-based measures are used by a bloated administrative sector to keep faculty hard at work while they usurp the faculty's role in the governance of universities. Further, higher education generally is under attack by conservatives, with as many as 58% believing that higher education negatively affects the country. In addition, students who disagree with the perspectives of faculty mobilize conservative media against them, thereby promoting a chilly climate on campuses. AAUP's "One Faculty, One Resistance" is an important campaign for supporting targeted faculty members and promoting the clash of perspectives, freedom of speech, and academic freedom. Finally, the new social order of free market fundamentalism is reducing higher education to a "jobs program." As we move forward it is imperative that AAUP intensify its efforts to expand its membership, continue to promote an understanding of the new reality among faculty, protect academic freedom, promote shared governance, and shape higher education's contributions to the common good. I am committed to contribute to and work on current and future AAUP initiatives to accomplish these ends.