

AAUP National Council, Area X
Siobhan Senier
University of New Hampshire

Candidate Statement

As an early target of post-election attacks on academic freedom, and as an organizer with experience working with NTT colleagues to confront institutional abuses of power, I am asking for your vote to allow me to bring this experience to the national council.

In the weeks immediately following the 2016 election I found myself, along with several other colleagues, quoted in *Campus Reform* and a wave of other alt-right publications, allegedly for "calling for the expulsion of students." What in fact happened was that we engaged in a Facebook conversation with concerned students and staff about a flurry of racist incidents on campus; our comments were screenshot, decontextualized and used in a weeks-long campaign of harassment and intimidation including hate mail, trolling, and a FOIA request for our emails from Judicial Watch (the people who brought you the Hillary Clinton email "scandal"). Since that time, I have attended AAUP webinars on academic freedom and worked to pressure my campus administration to articulate clear guidelines for the protection of faculty who find themselves under attack for both academic and extramural expression.

The University of New Hampshire is fortunate to have a strong collective bargaining tradition, including a cohort of contract faculty who organized recently with AAUP. This January, the university nevertheless fired 18 of those contract faculty. I have always tried to advocate for my NTT colleagues at the departmental and college levels, whether through sharing teaching loads equitably or extending the right to vote. I am now organizing with them to hold our university accountable for its lack of transparency and aggressive re-allocation of resources to administration. With your vote, I can continue to work through and learn more about "tenure for the common good."

Candidate Bio

I received my PhD in English from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1997 and have been teaching at the University of New Hampshire since 2000, with a specialization in Native American literature. I edit a website, dawnlandvoices.org, with Indigenous authors and historians, students, and colleagues at other colleges; I am also an editor-in-chief at *Studies in American Indian Literatures*. My campus service has been extensive and has included terms on our faculty senate and college

promotion and tenure committees. Currently I serve as Coordinator of the UNH Women's Studies Program. I am a member of the AAUP-NH Executive Committee and served on our negotiating team during our last round of contract negotiations.