

AAUP National Council
Siobhan Senier
University of New Hampshire (Area X)

Candidate Statement

As an early target of post-2016-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. I helped form our own local “Committee A” on academic freedom, as well as a similar committee for the National Women’s Studies Association.

I have also served for several years on the Executive Committee of our bargaining unit at the University of New Hampshire. We are fortunate to have a strong collective bargaining tradition, including a cohort of contract faculty who organized recently with AAUP. I have sought to advocate for and join forces with my NTT colleagues at the departmental and college levels, whether through sharing teaching loads equitably or extending the right to vote. I’m also a member of Tenure for the Common Good. With your vote, I can continue to work through and learn more about these issues at the national level.

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 Chair of the UNH Women's and Gender Studies Department. I am a member of the AAUP-NH Executive Committee and have served on our negotiating team during our last round of contract negotiations, as well as our current round.