



## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AAUP CONSTITUTION

Below is an explanation of the proposed amendments to the AAUP Constitution. As explained in [FAQs available on the AAUP website](#), there are several major substantive proposed changes. Several clarifications to the AAUP Constitution were made for consistency with current practice and for clarification and legal compliance. Certain minor and self-evident changes are not described below. All citations are to the revised Article and Section numbers, unless otherwise specified. The Constitutional amendments would generally be effective January 1, 2020. However, certain meeting and election provisions would be applicable starting at the June 2020 AAUP meeting. There would also be a transitional Council from January 1, 2020, until June 2022, which is established by a leadership transition Constitutional Amendment Proviso.

### Article II - AAUP Membership

- Changed so that all AAUP members must be in a chapter (Art. II, Sec. 1), with a national At-Large Chapter (Article VII, Sec. 4 *infra.*) comprised of members not eligible for membership in another chapter.
- Limited the use of the term “member” to individuals actually members of AAUP. Thus deleted the word “member” from the provision on “Associates” (Art. II, Sec.1 c) and ceased using the term “qualified member.” (Art. II, Sec. 3 and throughout.) Clarified that “Associates” are not AAUP members and are not required to be affiliated with an AAUP chapter (though chapters could opt to allow an affiliation.)(Art. II, Sec. 1 c)
- Included graduate students as active members instead of as a separate member category (Art. II, Sec. 1 a and prior b deleted.) Clarified language regarding members in collective bargaining chapters (Art. II, Sec. 1 a). Deleted last sentence of Art. II, Sec. 1 a as this is now accomplished through other provisions of the Constitution.
- Removed reference to retirees and members having a direct “vote” (Art. II, Sec. 1 b and 3) to avoid confusion as elections will now be accomplished through a vote of chapter delegates elected by AAUP members (Art. V and VI *infra.*).
- Revised section on membership application and acceptance and on membership reinstatement (Art. II, Sec. 2) because the current Constitution does not reflect the general practice. There are a variety of methods for individuals becoming members of AAUP (through chapters, through the AAUP website etc.). Therefore, provided Council with the responsibility of establishing procedures for processing of member applications and admissions and for reinstatement (Art. II, Sec. 2). Added that Council will establish procedures for membership suspension or expulsion (Art. II, Sec. 4) to ensure meeting legal obligations.
- Because AAUP elections will be conducted by a vote of Chapter delegates (Article V, *infra.*), clarified that individual members (who are not chapter delegates) do not directly vote at Association meetings (see Art. II, Sec. 3 and Art. VI, Sec. 5 and 6).

### **Officers – Article III**

- Eliminated position of Second Vice-President (Art. III, Sec. 1) and removed references to Second Vice-President throughout. Also changes in succession (Art. V, Sec. 10).
- Four year terms for officers (Art. III, Sec. 2), clarified beginning of term and changed reference to biennial meeting (see Art. VI and Art V, Sec. 9, infra.).
- Removed provision that President shall be nonvoting ex officio member of governing bodies of all conferences (Art. III, Sec. 3).

### **Council – Article IV**

- Changed to eight elected Council members (Art. IV, Sec. 1) (primary changes in Article IV and in Article V.) Removed references to ASC and CBC representatives (Art. VI, Sec. 1) due to elimination of the ASC and CBC (see Art. VIII and prior IX infra.).
- Specified staggered Council terms (Art. IV, Sec. 1). Precise staggering instituted by the Constitutional Amendment Proviso establishing the initial terms of office.
- Past AAUP President as nonvoting, ex officio member of Council for 2 years. (Art. IV, Sec. 1.)
- Provided authority to Council for imposition and removal of censure and sanction (Art. IV, Sec. 2) and eliminated provision on redistricting (Art. IV, Sec. 2) as new regions are specified in the Constitution (Art. V infra.)
- Removed provision that Council members shall be nonvoting ex officio member of governing bodies within the member's region (Art. III, Sec. 3).
- Increased number of Council meetings to three per year, and reduced number of members necessary for quorum and call of special meeting (Art. IV, Sec. 4).
- Executive Committee made up of officers (Art. IV, Sec. 6) as smaller Council will assume many of the duties currently delegated to the Executive Committee.

### **Nominations and Elections – Article V**

- Clarified the title of the Article by adding "Nomination," and eliminated section headings as they were the only ones in the Constitution. Deleted provision regarding initial members of Council (prior Art. V, Sec.1) as it has expired.
- Specified that elections will occur at the biennial meeting (Art. V, Sec. 1).
- Simplified the nomination provisions (Art. V, Sec. 1, 3, 4, and 5), and specified the deadline for nominations (Art. V, Sec. 5). Council would establish nomination rules as necessary. Members may only be nominated for, or hold, one office at a time (Art. V, Sec. 2)(an incumbent could run for a different office), and changed from plurality to majority vote for election of officers and regional Council Members (Art. V, Sec. 7), to avoid overly complex multi ballot elections.
- Changed from ten geographical "districts" to five geographical "regions" (Art. V, Sec. 3). Regions set forth in the Constitution (Art. V, Sec. 3), and changed by amendment not Council (Art. IV, Sec. 2 deletion). The regions are based on the US Census regions, with the northeast divided into the two Census Divisions due to the large number of AAUP members in that Census region. US Census regions do not include Puerto Rico and other territories, but they are included in the US government's "standard regions", and they are added to the corresponding AAUP regions.
- For Regional Council members, candidates must be members in good standing from the region (Art. V, Sec. 3), but all members may sign the nominating petition (Art. V, Sec. 5), and all delegates are eligible to cast votes for regional Council members (Art. V, Sec. 3).

- Changed maximum number of at-large Council Members from one region (formerly district) from 2 to 1 (Art. V, Sec. 3 and 8) due to smaller total number of at-large Council Members.
- Elections conducted by secret ballot of delegates casting votes equal to number of members in the chapter (Art. V, Sec. 6).
- Added a provision on the beginning of the term of office (Art V, Sec. 9) that corresponds with the end of the term and clarified that language (Art. III, Sec. 1 and Art. IV, Sec. 1).
- Three term limit for officers and Council Members (Art. V, Sec. 9).

#### **Meetings of the Association – Article VI**

- Changed from an annual to a biennial meeting of the Association (primary changes in Article VI, Section 1.) Also, changed terminology from Annual Meeting to “biennial Association Meeting” throughout. Special meetings may be called as currently permitted.
- Specified that the Association meetings are meetings of chapter delegates (Art. VI, Sec. 1).
- Provided that chapters may elect one chapter delegate for each 250 members, up to a maximum of 10 delegates (Art. VI, Sec.3). Clarified that under AAUP Constitution, chapters are not required to have a ballot if only one nominee for each chapter delegate position (Art.VI, Sec. 3). Eliminated provision for state conference delegates (Art. VI, Sec. 3).
- Created a provision on “sections of chapters” which would allow chapters of less than 250 members each in a state to form a section of chapters for the purpose of electing delegates to the national meetings. Art.VI, Section 4. (Council will need to establish procedures regarding sections well in advance of June 2020 meeting.) Added reference to “section of chapters” in meeting and election provisions where necessary. Also, removed “chapter” preceding “delegate” (see Art. VI, Sec, 6) so that term “delegate” covers both chapter and section delegates.
- Specified that all members are entitled to attend Association meetings, but only accredited delegates are entitled to participate in elections and to a voice and vote on matters brought before the meeting (Art. VI, Sec. 5). Under Roberts Rules, the meeting may recognize and permit non-delegates to speak.
- Generally maintained current language regarding weighted votes, but clarified that the same rules apply to elections (Art. VI. Sec. 6).
- Specified April 1 cut-off date for calculation of number of members (Art.VI, Sec. 6). To avoid delegates casting fractional votes, added that chapter delegation would distribute any votes remaining after the equal division of votes among delegates (Art. VI, Sec. 6).

#### **Chapters – Article VII**

- Clarified that prospective chapters must apply for and be granted a charter by AAUP and the authority to grant charters to collective bargaining units of limited jurisdiction (Art. VII, Sec. 1).
- Clarified requirements for chapter good standing in AAUP (Art. VII, Sec. 2) Added provision permitting suspension of a chapter’s charter, and clarified provisions regarding suspension or revocation of charter (Art. VII, Sec. 3). Moved and clarified chapter obligations regarding election of chapter officers (Art. VII, Sec. 5).
- Created a national At-Large chapter for members who are not eligible for membership in another chapter (Art. VII, Sec. 4). This chapter would be governed by the normal rules applicable to all AAUP chapters. (The AAUP national office will provide support to the chapter in carrying out certain duties. This would be addressed further in new policies promulgated by Council.)

- Deleted dictates to chapters on eligibility for chapter membership, associate members having a right to attend meetings, and votes by collective bargaining chapters on matter pertaining to collective bargaining (Art. VII, Sec. 4).

#### **State Conferences, Article VIII, and Collective Bargaining Congress, prior Article IX**

- Eliminated constitutional provisions for Assembly of State Conferences and for Collective Bargaining Congress. Deleted prior Article IX and Article VIII, Section 2 that established CBC and ASC respectively, and deleted references to ASC and CBC throughout. Eliminated provision for ASC and CBC representation on the Council (Art. IV, Sec. 1). Elected members of ASC and CBC would serve out their terms on Council under the leadership transition Constitutional Amendment Proviso.
- Retained general language regarding AAUP state conferences. Added general purpose for state conferences and removed specifications regarding state conference membership for consistency with current practice (Art. VIII, Sec. 1).

#### **AAUP Foundation, prior Article X**

- Deleted article. Deletion will have no impact on the AAUP Foundation or AAUP's current relationship with the Foundation. However, it will remove the constitutional obligation to maintain a Foundation in perpetuity.

#### **Amendments, Article IX**

- Clarified that Constitution can be amended by vote of delegates "present and voting" (Art. IX, Sec. 1). This permits for either a straight delegate vote, or a weighted delegate vote, if called for, as is currently allowed.