

The Nebraska Professor

The newsletter of the Nebraska State Conference of the
American Association of University Professors

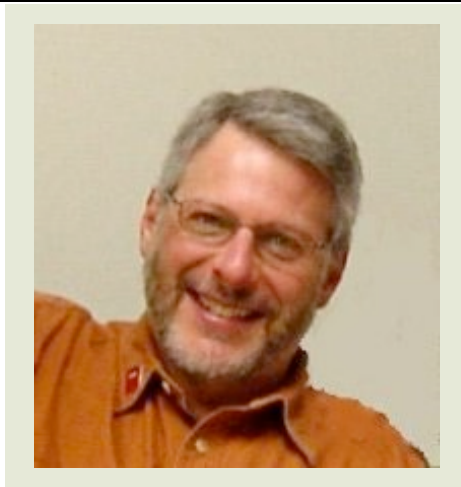
2011 State Conference Meeting Saturday, November 5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. University of Nebraska, Omaha

The Nebraska State Conference of the AAUP will hold our Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 5, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Collaborating Commons area of UNO's College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) Building.

Join faculty colleagues from the AAUP Chapters at UNO, UNL, Creighton University, Hastings College, Midland University, and Nebraska Wesleyan University to explore issues and trends affecting higher education both nationally and in Nebraska.

Dr. Rudy Fichtenbaum (pictured), Professor of Economics, Wright State University, will be the keynote speaker, addressing faculty concerns related to governance, academic freedom, and collective bargaining in light of the ongoing legislative controversies in Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

Dr. Fichtenbaum will also lead a breakout session on researching and understanding institutional finances.



Dr. Fichtenbaum has served on the National Council of the AAUP and on the Executive Committee of the Collective Bargaining Congress (CBC) of the AAUP. As a consultant for the AAUP, he has analyzed the finances of over thirty colleges and universities.

Following the keynote address, John Kretschmar (Director of UNO's Brennan Institute of Labor Studies) will host a breakout session examining the current situation of labor relations and public employees in Nebraska.

Drs. Constance Malloy (English, Hastings College) and Rachel Roiblatt (Social Work, UNO) will address practical, effective ways for faculty to engage with each other and their institution through their AAUP chapter.

Registration for the Fall Meeting will begin at 11 AM, with a deli lunch scheduled for 11:30 AM. The schedule is designed to allow time to meet and converse with colleagues from around the state.

There is no charge to attend the Fall Meeting, but please RSVP to Jim Shaw (jshaw@unomaha.edu ; 402-554-2225) by Monday, October 31 to facilitate planning.

Chapter News

Creighton University

Diminishing revenue from the University's clinics may lead to some difficulties. The members of the AAUP Chapter are well positioned, however, with roles on the committees, boards and councils that are in place for planning downsizing, should it be necessary.

A new president was installed this fall, and he is currently familiarizing himself with the governance structures at the University. Of primary concern to the faculty is the need to have, at the very least, faculty input before administrative decisions are made.

Hastings College

The chapter is actively engaged in new member recruitment. The first meeting of the year was attended by twenty faculty members (both current members and interested potential members).

Midland University

Midland University is transitioning to a faculty senate governance structure, in conjunction with moving to a "college" structure of organization. The board of trustees has authorized the college of business to seek HLC approval of an MBA program.

Upgrades in the admissions and financial aid offices have resulted in

record freshman and transfer enrollment. The AAUP chapter continues to seek increased membership.

Nebraska Wesleyan University

The chapter is working to respond to an administrative decision to eliminate the Computer Science major. This decision did not go through any faculty committee discussion or review. The chapter is lobbying for greater transparency and for more faculty participation in strategic budgeting.

A faculty committee is being created to establish procedures for the

elimination of academic programs, since the current documents refer to faculty governance structures.

University of Nebraska, Lincoln

The chapter is working to boost membership and engagement after the retirements of several longstanding members. As the university faces yet another year of budget cuts, a strong, independent faculty voice will be critical.

UNL faculty interested in working to rebuild the AAUP chapter should contact Julia Schleck (English) or John Bender (Journalism).

University of Nebraska, Omaha

A number long-time AAUP members retired last spring. The chapter is stepping up membership efforts, and appreciates the opportunity to host the state conference meeting in November, which will increase AAUP visibility at UNO and at all of our institutions.

UNO AAUP's annual Wine & Cheese social and the Fall dinner, have been scheduled. This is not a negotiating year; nevertheless, the Legislature's recent amendments to the Industrial Relations Act will certainly prompt much work in 2012.

National Meeting Update

The National AAUP meeting sponsored a focused set of break-out sessions on topics of interest to the current state of higher education, including the use of technology in education, the growing use of contingent faculty, collective bargaining rights, faculty-administered surveys concerning the well-being of the faculty, challenges to academic freedom, the special implications of academic freedom in regard to personnel decisions, the use of program prioritization as a tool in deciding the fate of academic programs, bullying and harassment in the educational arena, and a host of others. The exposure to colleagues with both similar and vastly different encounters on their campuses helps localize one's own experience.

The meeting of the Assembly of State Conferences covered the election of three officers (Chair, Vice Chair, and At-Large Executive Committee Member), the presentation of rewards, and reports. There was a spirited debate on the role of the Executive Committee of the National Council and its role in personnel matters. The national meeting also allowed the five members of the widespread Nebraska Conference to meet several times to discuss items of interest to the state.

May 2011 State Conference Election Results

Vice President (Jan 1, 2012-Dec 31, 2013, followed by presidential term 2014-2015): **Tom Coffey, Creighton.**

Secretary (Jan 1, 2012-Dec 31, 2013): **John Bender, UNL.**

Treasurer (Jan 1, 2012-Dec 31, 2013): **Jim McCarthy, Midland.**

Roiblatt Elected to National Council

Richelle Roiblatt, Assistant Professor of Social Work at UNO has been to the AAUP District Council, representing District 2 (AK, ID, KS, MN, MT, NE, North ND, OK, OR, SD, TX, WA, WA, WY).

State Conference Officers

Bob Kettlitz (Hastings) — Vice President/Acting President

Jim McCarthy (Midland) — Treasurer

Tom Coffey (Creighton) — Secretary

Sarah Kelen (Nebraska Wesleyan) — Past President

Julia Schleck (UNL) — At Large Representative

Tom Adamson (Midland) — At Large Representative

Constance Malloy (Hastings) — Chapter President

Lisa Wilkinson (Nebraska Wesleyan) — Chapter President

James Shaw (UNO) — Chapter President