

# The Nebraska Professor

Nebraska State Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

## Fall 2012

### State Conference Wrap Up

#### 2012 State Conference Keynote

At the November 6, 2012 State Conference Annual Meeting, Prof. Joerg Tiede (Illinois Wesleyan University) presented the keynote address, "Chapter Development: Start a Chapter, Revive a Chapter, Strengthen a Chapter." Tiede reminded the group that a strong local chapter can monitor campus events before problems escalate into crises.

As the face of the AAUP on their campuses, Tiede noted, chapter leaders speak for the principles of the national organization. AAUP policy statements, along with other guidelines for chapter leaders, are available online on the <http://www.aaup.org> website.

Tiede suggested chapter activities like presenting *Redbooks* to faculty members who chair major committees, or organizing meetings between chapter leaders and administrators. He also suggested sending a *Redbook* to members of the university's governing board, to introduce them to AAUP.

Members who would like copies of the presentation slides can contact conference organizer and State Conference secretary John Bender (UNL).

#### UNL Survey of Non Tenure Track Faculty

UNL Faculty Senate President, Prof. Mathias Schubert, presented the results of an employment satisfaction survey of non-tenure track faculty members. Faculty members were asked about their duties, evaluation structures, salaries, promotion, and rights.

The survey highlighted some problems in the hiring, developing, incorporating, and compensating non-tenure track faculty. Non-tenure track faculty often lack regular and

transparent opportunities for evaluation and salary increases. They also frequently feel excluded from departmental culture and undervalued for the teaching and research that they do within the institution.

Given the results of this survey, the Faculty Senate is reviewing all units' By-Laws in order to identify best practices in promoting the rights and collegial treatment of non-tenure track faculty.

#### Academic Freedom 101

David Moshman (UNL) and Amy Miller (Legal Director for ACLU Nebraska) presented a workshop on the legal and professional context for academic and intellectual freedom for faculty members. In most cases, the First Amendment does not protect faculty freedom of speech, so we need faculty organizations to advocate for academic freedom. AAUP serves that role nationally. AAUP is also a member organization, of AFCON: the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska, that defends academic freedom in a range of educational contexts.

Moshman stressed that academic freedom ensures students' rights to a curriculum designed by those with disciplinary expertise, unswayed by external political pressure. Articulating academic freedom in terms of the students' rights to a legitimate education makes it clear to non-academics why academic freedom should be a matter of public concern rather than being a special privilege for faculty.



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### Call for Nominations

This winter, elections will be held for **Two At-Large Representatives to the State Conference Executive Committee**. The term will run January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014.

Any member of the AAUP who lives within Nebraska is eligible to serve as an At-Large Representative. At-Large Representatives serve on the Nebraska State Conference Executive Committee,

The State Conference Executive Committee meets at least once a year, either in person or by conference call, to conduct the business of the State Conference. If you are interested in running for this position contact John Bender, State Conference Secretary (jbender1@unl.edu) by **December 1, 2012**.

### Upcoming Events

A one-day Association of State Conferences **ASC Workshop** will be held in **St. Louis, MO on November 12, 2012**. The workshop will focus on shared governance, governing boards, and analyzing institutional finances to challenge top-down decisions about program and faculty cuts. Information is online at: <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/about/events/novasc.htm>

The 2013 **National Meeting** of the AAUP and **Conference on the State of Higher Education** will be held **June 12-16, 2013, in Washington, D.C.** Consider attending as a Nebraska Delegate to find out more about AAUP at the national level.

### AAUP Mission Statement

The AAUP's purpose is to advance academic freedom and shared governance, to define fundamental professional values and standards for higher education, and to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good.



### Student Aid Alliance

The AAUP is one of seventy-five educational organizations that comprise the [Student Aid Alliance](#), a group working to expand students' access to higher education through increasing the opportunities for students to gain meaningful financial assistance toward the costs of higher education.

### State Conference Website

Remember that you can use an RSS Reader to subscribe to the news posted on the State Conference website: <http://www.aaup-ne.org>. Many e-mail programs have this capability, so news arrives in your inbox automatically!

### Chapter News

Watch for Chapter News from around the state in the Winter 2012 Newsletter, which will also announce results of the elections for the two At-Large Representatives to the Nebraska State Conference Executive Committee.