

Nebraska Professor

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Nebraska AAUP Spring State Conference Meeting March 29, 2008

Representatives from Hastings College, Midland Lutheran College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, University of Nebraska - Lincoln, and University of Nebraska at Omaha, were present.

Chapter Reports

- Creighton University: No report
- Hastings College: A high percentage of campus faculty are involved with AAUP.
- Midland Lutheran College: Situation has improved over last year with former president gone, but leadership is still in flux (Interim Dean, VPAA, and President) and financial problems are still a concern. Faculty are still working without a Handbook. Increase in adjuncts after budget cuts puts faculty governance at risk; the college is trying to stabilize finances through adding new programs (mostly non-traditional). Tenure is at risk: college is trying to space out tenure decisions, despite official tenure clock. Accreditation visit is scheduled for next year.
- Nebraska Wesleyan University: First year with new president (“wait and see”

attitude among faculty); administration in flux (hiring a new Provost and some VPs). Current faculty concerns about policies on political speakers and about mail routing/opening; administration is working to clarify policies in response to faculty concerns.

- UNL: Faculty governance structures already contain much Redbook language, so it's hard to convince colleagues of the value of AAUP with that already in place. Budget/enrollment is better than in the past, so faculty do not feel a sense of urgency. One upcoming issue might be intellectual property rights on research. Recent introduction of “Professor of Practice” rank is another rising issue for faculty governance.
- UNO: Bargaining unit covers most concerns. There are some issues with RPT policies -- bargaining unit can file grievances, but cannot get involved in substantive decision making. Promotion/Tenure concerns are often caused by chairs or deans not understanding terms of the contract (thus grievance procedures are in place to correct some problems).

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Amendments to Constitution and By-laws

A number of changes were proposed to the Constitution and Bylaws, including: consolidating the two into one coherent document; updating text to accord with current national practice; clarifying language; and adding a section preventing officers from profiting financially from AAUP activity. All proposed changes were approved by vote. [Revised By-Laws are in this Newsletter.]

Elections of Officers and National Meeting Representatives

Electors voted by secret ballot for the following offices (all candidates listed alphabetically in parentheses; candidate in bold elected):

Vice President [President-elect] 2008-2009/President 2009-2010

(Jim Czarnecki, **Janet West**)

At Large Members of Executive Committee

(Bob Kettlitz, **Henry Krusiewicz**,

Ron Lee, Bill McClung)

Elections for Secretary and Treasurer were tabled until full slates of nominees could be recruited; electors agreed to hold a later election, to be scheduled by Executive Committee in May.

National Meeting Representatives

(Sarah Kelen, **Bob Kettlitz**, **Jim McCarthy**, Bill McClung)

Meeting with State Senator Amanda

McGill

AAUP members spoke for about an hour with the Senator about legislative issues of concern on their particular campus as well as more general concerns about higher education in Nebraska. Topics included:

- threat to Affirmative Action (Ward Connerly supported ballot initiative);
- in-state tuition for undocumented students who graduated from state high schools (currently NE law, but under threat);
- change to student testing in K-12 from a locally based system (endorsed by State Commissioner of Education) to national tests as under NCLB;
- state aid for students at private schools in Nebraska (not currently given, but given to students by neighboring states);
- how to keep Nebraska high school grads in state for college; keep college grads in state after college;
- possibility of same-sex partner benefits at state university campuses (not currently extended at any Nebraska university, public or private)
- incentives for green building or renewable energy in state construction projects, particularly on campuses;
- development of a Research Park at UNL on the current State Fairgrounds site;
- new term limits in legislature and the resulting “youth movement” of new, younger senators (positive for higher education?)

THE BY-LAWS OF THE NEBRASKA STATE CONFERENCE,
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be "The Nebraska State Conference of the American Association of University Professors." In any legal context in which a constitution is specified as an organizational requirement, these by-laws shall be deemed sufficient.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the policies of, and membership in, the American Association of University Professors; to foster cooperation and facilitate the dissemination of information among Chapter officers and members; to assist wherever possible in the establishment of new local Chapters in the state; and to provide for a united and effective representation of the interests of the Nebraska AAUP membership in all matters affecting the academic profession in the state.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any member of the national AAUP within the state of Nebraska is automatically a member of the Nebraska State Conference.

Section 2. Classes of membership shall exist, conforming to those described in the Constitution of the national AAUP.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The election of officers shall be conducted in accordance with the standards of the national AAUP.

Section 2. The elected officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice-President, Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 3. The Vice-President, after holding that office for one term, shall become the President of this organization.

Section 4. Each officer shall hold office for two years. Each officer shall assume his/her duties on January 1 following election, and hold office until December 31 of the second year of term of office, or until a successor is elected.

ARTICLE V- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, two members elected at large, the president of each Chapter in the state, one member from each institution having two or more members of the national AAUP on its campus, and the chairs of the Standing Committees. The past-President of the Conference shall become member of the Executive Committee following his/her incumbency, and should the past-President for any reason be unable to serve, the past-Treasurer shall serve instead. Officers elected in the fall shall immediately become members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except for the representatives of institutions having no Chapter; such representatives shall have one half vote.

Section 3. The method by which each eligible unit within the state chooses its representative shall be reserved to the discretion of the local unit.

Section 4. A member of the Executive Committee shall be empowered to appoint from his/her local membership a proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead at such meetings as the regular member of the Committee may be unable to attend.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall meet as required.

Section 6. Should any office, except that of President, fall vacant between meetings, by reason of death, disability, resignation, or removal of an officer from Nebraska, or for any other reason, the unit represented by such officer shall select another member to maintain its full representation on the Executive Committee.

Section 7. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of a majority of the elected members of the Executive Committee.

Section 8. No part of the net earning of this organization shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to any director, employee or other individual, partnership, estate, trust or corporation

having a personal or private interest in the chapter. Compensation for services actually rendered and reimbursement for expenses actually incurred in attending the affairs of the Chapter shall be limited to reasonable amounts.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Conference and of the Executive Committee. With the consent of the Executive Committee he/she shall appoint members to any new or special committees established by the Conference or the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence or disability.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall keep all financial records of the Conference and shall be responsible for the collection and expenditure of Conference funds. At the fall meeting of the Executive Committee, the Treasurer shall submit, for approval, a budget for the next year.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep all except the financial records of the Conference; prepare and distribute notices of all meetings of the Conference and of the Executive Committee to all parties concerned; prepare and distribute to the members lists of nominees and notices of proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws; assist the editor of the Conference newsletter; and perform such other duties as are assigned to him/her by the Executive Committee. With the advice and consent of a voting majority of the Executive Committee, the Secretary may delegate one or more of these duties to another Active member of the Association within the state.

Section 5. The Officers shall identify from among the membership a Newsletter Editor who shall prepare at least two issues of the Conference newsletter each year.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be at least one meeting of the Conference each year, the time and place of which shall be determined by the President with the consent of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The President shall convoke the Executive Committee for special and emergency, as well as regular, meetings.

Section 3. A quorum for the Conference meetings shall consist of a majority of those who have registered for that meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - POWERS OF THE CONFERENCE

This Conference is empowered to consider and act upon all professional matters of concern to members of the academic profession in the state. Any Chapter not in agreement with action of the Conference is entitled to the privilege of recording its dissenting opinion.

ARTICLE IX- DUES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. The annual dues shall be based on recommendations of the Executive Committee and policies of the National Organization.

Section 2. The Executive Committee is empowered to set a registration fee to cover the expenses of the meeting of the Conference.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

The By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the State Conference by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the membership in the exact form in which it is to be presented, at least one month before the meeting.

ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Nebraska State Conference of the American Association of University Professors, any accrued funds in the treasury, after payment of all outstanding debts, shall revert to the national headquarters of the American Association of University Professors.

Revision of November 18, 2000

Approved March 29, 2008 at a meeting of the State Conference at
Nebraska Wesleyan University