

The

Spring 2009

Nebraska Professor

Published by the Nebraska State Conference of the American Association of University Professors

* * * * *

Call For Nominations

The Nebraska State Conference of the AAUP is seeking nominations for the following officer positions:

- Vice President (January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011, followed by a two-year term as president)
- Secretary (January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011)
- Treasurer (January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011)

Nominations may be e-mailed to Sarah Kelen (sak@NebrWesleyan.edu).

Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Spring Meeting.

Nebraska AAUP State Conference Spring 2009 Meeting

Sunday, March 29th, 1:00-3:30 pm

Nebraska Wesleyan University
All-American Room, Weary Center

Featuring a panel discussion on:
Budget Cuts and Faculty Rights

1:00 Welcome and State of the Nebraska State Conference
Sarah Kelen, State Conference President.

1:15 Chapter Reports
Chapter Presidents or Representatives.

1:45 Discussion of Elections
Officers to be elected:
Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer.
Other election: State Representatives to the National Conference.

2:00 Break/Electors' Meeting

2:30 Panel Discussion:
Budget Cuts and Faculty Rights
Speakers from a range of Nebraska campuses will discuss the ways their institutions are addressing the budget crisis and how budget cuts may have an impact on faculty governance and academic freedom.

Reports From the Local Chapters

Creighton Report

Tom Coffey, State Conference Secretary

There has been no recent AAUP on the Creighton campus, and the chapter currently lacks officers. The Chapter Constitution specifies holding elections in September, so the next elections will be in September 2009. The general economic climate of the country as well as Creighton's own budget problems may spark new interest in AAUP

Hastings Report

Bob Kettlitz, President

As with the rest of academia we are concerned with the budget. We will not be getting a raise this coming year. Other issues include discussion about changes in status – from non-tenured to tenured and discussion about the humanities having 4 credit courses whereas most other courses are listed as 3 hour credit. Humanities faculty teach 3 courses per semester. Other faculty teach 4.

Midland Lutheran Report □ □

Jim McCarthy, President

Midland completed negotiations on a faculty handbook that was approved by both faculty and the board of trustees. It reaffirmed tenure and due process consistent with AAUP guidelines. This process, though rocky at times, has created considerable goodwill between the board and faculty. Jim McCarthy was on the negotiating team representing MLC's AAUP chapter. MLC has a permanent dean at this point, after operating for two years with an interim. The faculty hope this will provide both stability and a credible long range vision lacking in the past. □ MLC's first graduate program has been launched with the M.P.A., Master of Public Accountancy. So far the enrollment response has been strong. □ □

Nebraska Wesleyan Report

Larry McClain, President

The NWU chapter is happy to report that, after three years of an interim-heavy administration, NWU now has both a permanent President and Provost. The chapter met with the new Provost in October and discussed faculty workload and faculty evaluation. She has assembled a workgroup whose task is specifically to explore options for how faculty can lessen their workload. The Provost agrees with the faculty that the current faculty evaluation system needs revision; a faculty committee will work on this in the spring. The chapter is also interested in improving the grievance procedures for staff.

UNL Report

Sarah Kelen, State Conference President

The UNL chapter is currently operating without officers. A number of those who were active in leadership through the years have retired, and the membership has not kept pace with those. The University's disinvitation of William Ayers in the fall sparked a new interest in AAUP. A number of AAUP members spoke at the Teach-In sponsored by the English Graduate Student Association in response to the Ayers cancellation, and a number of faculty and graduate students inquired about membership. The state conference is hoping to build on this interest to revive the UNL chapter.

UNO Report

Janet West, President

The chapter won the Special Master decision and will receive pay raises of 3.8% for each of the two years. We are holding our own in terms of membership. Although losing members through retirements, we have been able to recruit enough new members. UNO has a new Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. Initial dealings with her were rocky, but trust is beginning to be established.

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. 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.