

The Nebraska Professor

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

Spring 2010

STATE CONFERENCE SPRING MEETING

APRIL 17, 2010, 1-3 P.M.

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

ALL-AMERICAN ROOM • [MARIAN AND MARION WEARY CENTER](#)
JUST NORTH OF 52ND AND HUNTINGTON AVENUE • LINCOLN, NE

- **REPORTS FROM CHAPTERS**
- **ELECTION OF STATE CONFERENCE OFFICERS**
(SEE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS BELOW)
- **PANEL DISCUSSION: SHARED GOVERNANCE IN A TIME OF BUDGET CUTS**

State Conference News

New Officers:

As of January 1, Janet West (University of Nebraska, Omaha) is the State Conference President; Bob Kettlitz (Hastings) is the State Conference Vice-President; and Jim McCarthy (Midland Lutheran) is the State Conference Treasurer.

News From Chapters:

Creighton University:

The university is having some financial difficulties; cuts to employee benefits are being considered.

Hastings College:

The president will be leaving soon, and there is an open Vice Presidential spot. Jim Wiest will become interim Vice President. Jim is a longtime AAUP member and should be a strong advocate for faculty.

Midland Lutheran College:

Dr. Ben Sasse, will soon become the next President.; Sasse is currently teaching at the University of Texas. He has been supportive of AAUP principles. The college remains in a difficult financial situation, although the institution has not yet declared financial exigency.

Nebraska Wesleyan University:

The chapter is working with the administration to develop a system for faculty input in the evaluation of administrators.

University of Nebraska, Lincoln:

Given state funding cuts, UNL needs to cut its budget despite high enrollment. Faculty have raised concerns that the Chancellor sometimes seems to act outside of existing governance structures.

University of Nebraska, Omaha:

Campus culture is good, and the institution seems to be in sound financial shape. The union is healthy.

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Call for Nominations

At the April 17th State Conference Meeting, elections will be held for these statewide offices:

Two At-Large Representatives to the State Conference Executive Committee. The term for both of these positions is January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012.

State Conference Secretary. The term for this position is from the date of election through December 31, 2011. (The term began January 1, 2010; however, no candidates were nominated for this position at the last election or since. The person elected to this position will therefore serve an abbreviated term.) To nominate a candidate (including self-nominations), e-mail the State Conference President, Janet West (jwest@mail.unomaha.edu). Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Spring Meeting.

State Conference Website

The Nebraska State Conference Website is up and running, and it looks great! With the financial help of a Membership Development Grant from the national office of the AAUP, and with the technical assistance of Bill McClung (NWU), the State Conference has a great new website at <http://www.aaup-ne.org>.

The front page of the website features local and national news about higher education, and an Advocacy page provides information about higher education issues before the legislature as well as links for e-mailing your senator.

The website also provides: contact information for chapters; links to mail your state senator to discuss higher education legislation; copies of State Conference newsletters (including this one!); and information about joining AAUP, including a link to the membership department of the national organization.



Around the State

Dana College Sold:

After years of financial pressure, Dana College has announced that it will be sold to a newly created for-profit entity, the Dana Education Corporation. DEC has stated that it plans to maintain the tenure system (unusual in for-profit higher education).

UNL Budget Documents Online:

As the University of Nebraska, Lincoln moves forward with over \$5 million, the administration's proposed budget cuts are online in the Chancellor's Office section of the UNL website.

Moshman, *Liberty and Learning*:

Congratulations and thanks to AAUP and AFCON member David Moshman (UNL, Educational Psychology) for publishing *Liberty and Learning: Academic Freedom for Teachers and Students* (Heineman, 2009).