

The Nebraska Professor

Fall 2017

About *The Nebraska Professor*

The Nebraska Professor is published periodically by the Nebraska State Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). This year, Tom Coffey has agreed to serve as editor and to bring together items of interest to the Conference. For this academic year, fall, winter and spring newsletters are planned. If there are items that you would like to share with the members of the Conference, forward them to Tom Coffey. By way of information, the membership of the State Conference stands at about 240 members, while the membership of the National AAUP stands at around 51,000 members, including fee-payers. These numbers show an increase in numbers over those of the last decade.

Fall Meeting 2017

The fall meeting of the Nebraska Conference of the AAUP will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Details will be shared as soon as they are available, but you are encouraged to reserve the date now. The meeting is planned to pivot on the theme of "Know Your Rights." Very often, faculty members approach experienced faculty members or the AAUP for help late in the course of difficulties in which they find themselves embroiled, or they seek advice from sources unfamiliar with best academic practice, including from some administrators. Knowing one's rights may help in knowing when to consult with the AAUP at the State or National levels to ascertain best practices and bases for handling issues involving claims or disagreements.

National Meeting 2017

The 103rd National Meeting of the American Association of University Professors was held from June 15-18 in Washington, DC. Tom Coffey served as the Nebraska Conference Delegate at the Plenary Sessions and at the meeting of the Association of State Conferences. In the course of the Plenary Sessions, two institutions were placed on the Censured List of the AAUP and two institutions were removed from the Censured List. Details of the meeting may be found in the July-August AAUP *Bulletin* issue of *Academe* that was sent out recently or is available on line, depending on your subscription choice. In conjunction with the National Meeting, a concurrent Conference on the Statue of Higher Education was held; this conference dealt with a wide variety of issues but this year placed a special emphasis on the rights of students.

Chapter Contacts

The Conference has maintained a list of contacts in each Chapter in the state, and the Conference strives to keep this information up to date. Here are the current Chapter contacts: Creighton, Tom Coffey; Hastings, Jim Dugan; Nebraska Wesleyan, Kathy Wolfe; UNL, John Bender; and UNO, Sharon Wood. If there are updates on either Chapter officers or other designated contact person, please send these to the Conference President, Prof. Julia Schleck.

Conference Officers

The current Conference Officers are the following:

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| Julia Schleck | President |
| Donna Dufner | Vice President/President-Elect |
| Jim McCarthy | Treasurer |
| Victor Padrón | Secretary |
| Maria Arbalaez | At-large Delegate |
| Bart Clark | At-large Delegate |
| Tom Coffey | Past President/Newsletter Editor |
| Bill McClung | Webmaster |

Call for Nominations/Elections

The following offices will fall vacant on January 1, 2018: Vice President/President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and Two At-large Delegates. The terms are for two years, from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. According to the Constitution, the person elected as Vice President serves for two years and then becomes President for two years, and Past-President for two more years. Donna Dufner, who is the current Vice-President, will assume the office of President on January 1, 2018. If you wish to nominate someone who would be willing to serve in one of the offices listed above or if you would like to self-nominate, please send the name of the person willing to be a candidate and the name of the office for which the person wishes to be a candidate to Prof. Julia Schleck, President by October 15. An election will be held, with ballots going out at some point in November. In order to hold office, one must be current with one's national membership.

Helpful Links

Website of the National AAUP website:

www.aaup.org

Nebraska AAUP website

www.aaup-ne.org

Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

www.academicfreedomnebraska.org

Mission

The mission of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is to advance academic freedom and shared governance; to define fundamental professional values and standards for higher education; to promote the economic security of faculty, academic professionals, graduate students, post - doctoral fellows, and all those engaged in teaching and research in higher education; to help the higher education community organize to make our goals a reality; and to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good. Founded in 1915, the AAUP has helped to shape American higher education by developing the standards and procedures that maintain quality in education and academic freedom in this country's colleges and universities