

## NYS AAUP Conference Executive Director Report to the Fall Conference

I am happy to see everyone again and look forward the discussions we will be having related to our AAUP activities across the state. This report will chronicle the Executive Director's activities on our behalf since our Spring Conference in May 2007.

### Communications:

- We have continued discussions and efforts to convince AAUP National of the need to allow Conference leadership access to statewide membership email addresses. Our initial request when I came on board last January was sent to the AAUP Executive Committee for review and resulted in a new policy that was presented six months later at the AAUP Annual Meeting in Washington DC. Much to my disappointment National chose to not share email addresses with state conferences. Instead they offered to establish either a moderated or un-moderated list serve that would mean any communication to a sub-group of state membership would have to also go to the entire state membership. Not outwardly a great solution, but in the spirit of cooperation, we requested the establishment of these list serves for NYS Conference use. Last week the first of these two list serves, the un-moderated one, went live ten months after my initial request for the ability to contact our membership through email directly. National has about 2900 email addresses for our approximately 4900 members. NYS AAUP is the first conference in the country to use this "solution." The list serve got off to a predictably bad start and I asked for it to be taken down three days after it went up. I have been in touch with Martin Snyder and John Curtis to resolve the issue. I expect we will have to be yet again patient as we await the creation and release of our moderated list serve.
- You will notice that the report of the Vice President and Chair of the membership committee lists quite a few changes to the states chapter listing. I have updated the web page in an effort to reconcile the changes and we have asked National for the names and email addresses for the presidents of the chapters listed by AAUP. When/if we get this information I will do a follow-up chapter survey.
- I applied for an ASC Flexible Response Grant over the summer for \$1500 to help defray costs for getting nysaaup.org website designed professionally. National monies have not yet been released to the ASC for grants and no action has been taken yet. ASC will be meeting Oct 19, 2007 at which time our grant may be considered.
- Meanwhile I have gone ahead and begun working with a talented graphic designer to create a modern logo for the state conference. The logo is progressive, youthful, incorporates the newer colors found on the AAUP "new" site and is adaptable to our state chapters, other state conferences in the country and even as a modern logo for National. I present this logo at this conference for your approval. Upon approval we can go forward with the site design based on the logo design and the colors chosen. The design will include templates, style sheets, and some interactive programming for our conference site.

- nysaaup.org has been maintained and been kept up-to-date. The newest addition just this week is the addition of four forums in response to the list serve fiasco.
- Conducted an on-line survey of for Committee A on academic freedom issues.
- Nicole M. Byrd is working on getting a lobbying network underway and wants to get the group started on a monthly conference call before the end of 2007. She is asking for our best legislative go-getter for this job (our main government relations person). Who should we ask to do this?

#### Services:

- I am happy to report that our outreach to Hilbert College last spring has resulted in 15 faculty at Hilbert joining AAUP and they have applied for and been accepted as a state chapter of AAUP. Kathryn Eskew led this organizing effort.
- Cecilia McCall, elected at our Spring Conference is our new conference secretary. I would like to welcome her in that capacity today. I would like to ask the conference to consider an administrative change that would allow for email approval of the minutes of our conference meetings proximate to the end of our meeting so that we can post the minutes on the website and reference them in NY Academe without having to wait six months for the next conference for their approval. I would be happy to facilitate this process if Cecilia would like help with this proposed change.
- Deborah Dolan of Hofstra has agreed to be Chair of the Economic Status of the Profession and will be making her first report to us in that capacity. Deborah would appreciate help from some of our more experienced chairs with getting additional membership organizing committee activities.
- Philip Gray, Member at Large, who would normally be at our meeting has been out of touch with the conference since being accused of having had unacceptable content on an Institute computer. We have had only second hand news of his situation. I did give him a call when this situation first came to our attention and offered him the help of the conference should he so choose.
- New leadership committee chairs have been appointed since our spring conference and include; Grace Vernon (Fordham University) - Committee on the Status of Minorities in the Profession, Jeanette Jeneault (Syracuse University) – Committee on Contingent Faculty and the Profession, Deborah Dolan (Hofstra University) – Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession. We had hoped to have Eileen Burchell of former Marymount come on board as Chair of the Committee on Governance but she declined since her new position with Fordham University is administrative. Chairs for this committee and Independent Council are open so please forward to us any recommendations that you may have for these positions.
- We continue to be in contact with a Binghamton State University faculty member who has been grieving the process of his denial of Tenure. He remains hopeful
- There are currently issues that we have made ourselves available as a resource for at RPI and St. John's. We expect to have representatives from both Institutes in

attendance. Please make the opportunity to listen and share your perspectives with these colleagues.

- As reported in NY Academe our NYS AAUP Conference Marymount motion in concert with the very persuasive letters our President Steve Goldberg crafted on our behalf has resulted in a positive resolution for all affected Marymount College faculty upon the closing of that Institution by Fordham University. Thank you Steve!
- NYS AAUP participation and attendance at the AAUP Annual meeting was robust. For Capitol Hill Day we had appointments with 9 representatives and senator Schumer.
- In August I interviewed Frank Higman at his home in Niagara Falls for the purpose of gathering together some of the history of the NYS Conference to be added to the conference web site.

Other:

- I attended the AAUP National Meeting in June, and the Summer Institute in July.
- RIT for the first time received a letter following our Middle States Accreditation Report. The letter contained the following:

*At its session on June 28, 2007, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted: To reaffirm accreditation and to request a progress letter, due by April 1, 2009, documenting implementation of an organized, sustained process to assess the achievement of institutional, program-level, and general education student learning outcomes. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2012.*

It is our understanding that 50% of Sate Institutions going through Middle States review have received a similar post accreditation report letter. Is it possible that this mandate is a direct consequence of the Spelling's Report? These letters should not be ignored and should rally faculty to establish their own rigorous outcomes evaluation metrics to head off the establishment of state or countrywide graduation exams as a requirement of certification.

- The conference should establish the dates and host institutions of our downstate spring conference and our next fall conference as well at this meeting. We should establish the theme for the Spring Conference as well and I would recommend that we consider Contingent Faculty as such. I have been in contact with Joe Berry who wrote the book, "Reclaiming the Ivory Tower: Organizing Adjuncts to Change Higher Education" and he is willing to be our keynote speaker if the scheduling can work out.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tom Policano**  
*Executive Director*

NYS Conference AAUP  
PO Box 20047  
Rochester, NY 14602  
[tpolicano@nysaaup.org](mailto:tpolicano@nysaaup.org)  
888.690.2287  
585.719.7137  
585.427.8526 Fax