

NYS AAUP Conference Executive Director Report to the Spring Conference 2008

I am happy to see everyone again. This should be an exciting and interesting meeting. We want to thank St. John's and Hofstra for welcoming the NYS AAUP Conference to their campuses for this meeting. As well we want to thank Joe Berry and James Berger for agreeing to be conference speakers. This report will chronicle the Executive Director's activities on our behalf since our Fall Conference in October, 2007.

Communications:

- There has been no progress with national on resolving email access to state membership.
- The NYS Conference at the request of Carey Nelson, has agreed to a reduced per-capita dues allocation for NYS new non-collective bargaining Institution members taking advantage of the reduced dues offering. The conference leadership has agreed to this reduction for one year only. To date there are 49 new members in NYS who have taken advantage of the reduced dues offer.
- Vassar College has a new NYS AAUP Chapter that appears on the report of the Vice President and Chair of the Membership Committee and eight prior chapters are no longer listed bringing the total of chapters lost in the last two years to eleven. I have begun to follow up on this. Our conference site has been updated with this new information.
- nysaaup.org has been maintained and been kept up-to-date.
- Contributed articles for the NY Academe Newspaper.
- Our NYS leadership group has been contacted and asked to augment our Congressional visitation list for Capitol Hill Day, June 12th. Initial contact has been made to all listed and to date four meeting have been set (***) . We are coordinating this years NYS AAUP visits with UUP. Contacts made include:

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Representative Tom Reynolds
Representative Brian Higgins
Representative Pete King
Representative Kristen Gillibrand
Representative Randy Kuhl ***
Representative Michael Arcuri
Representative Louise Slaughter
Senator Charles Schumer
Representative Tim Bishop ***
Representative Carolyn McCarthy
Representative Yvette Clarke ***
Representative John McHugh

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Representative James Walsh
Representative Steve Israel

Senator Hillary Clinton
Representative Charles Rangel
Representative Nita Lowey ***

Services:

- I attended a faculty meeting at Hilbert College 11/15/07 and answered questions about shared governance. We are pleased to have Kate Eskew from Hilbert College in attendance at our meeting today. Kate is one of the main organizers of the Hilbert Chapter.
- Assisted Frank Higman, Chair of our Governance Committee with contacting our membership and putting together the election ballot that will be voted upon at this meeting. Frank was scheduled to attend but had to cancel due to health reasons.
- We have continued our discussions with the faculty at St. John's begun before our Fall Conference and leading up to this meeting. The St John's open forum at this conference should afford our conference the opportunity to again offer the backing and services of our state leadership group.
- Making use of the feedback from our leadership group, the RIT chapter of AAUP has made significant progress towards improving the working conditions for non-tenure track faculty. This includes a promise of salary increases, the inclusion of Lecturer salaries in our annual benchmarking reports, the redefinition of Lecturer in our Policy & Procedures manual that will allow for Lecturer as a "permanent" hiring and offering a Senior Lecturer title with additional employment safeguards. A survey was created for Adjunct Faculty and received a 44% (95/217) response. A committee of non-tenure track faculty has been formed to review the results and come back with recommendations. The Provost has asked the Deans to review the survey results as well.
- Assistance to several state faculty members seeking information and contacts for support for tenure and job related issues have been provided.
- Assisted the At-Large Conference leadership in organizing this conference and finding our keynote speakers.

Other:

- The conference should establish the dates and host institutions of our upstate Fall Conference and our next Spring Conference as well at this meeting. We should establish the theme for the Fall Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Policano
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