

NYS AAUP Conference Executive Director Report to the Fall Conference 2008

Welcome all. While growth is slow conference attendance is up after three unfortunate cancellations we have 33 confirmed reservations and we hope to see many local area walks for our forum and keynote events. We want to thank Marymount Manhattan College for welcoming the NYS AAUP Conference to their campus for this meeting. As well we want to thank our keynote speakers Martin Snyder, AAUP Associate General Secretary & Director of External Relations and Alan Lubin, NYSUT Executive Vice President. At our banquet we will be honoring our NYS AAUP Past Executive Director Jeanine Plottel. This report will chronicle the Executive Director's activities on our behalf since our Fall Conference in October, 2008.

Activities:

- The NYS Conference has continued discussions and efforts with AAUP National about the need to allow Conference leadership access to statewide membership email addresses. National has 3,689 email addresses for our approximately 4,966 state members. I am happy to report that through the efforts of Katherine Isaac on January 29th, 2009, two years after my initial request, we successfully communicated with NYS Conference AAUP members by email requesting member participation in our Academic Freedom Survey. The response rate of ~ 170 was outstanding. We again used this service to announce details of our conference a few weeks ago. Thank you to all who responded and thank you again Katherine!
- nysaaup.org has been maintained and been kept up-to-date.
- Contributed articles for the NY Academe Newspaper.
- Maintained contact with RPI about the status of the suspension of the Faculty Senate at RPI by President Shirley Jackson. An updated constitute constitution with an 80% faculty vote was rejected by the Provost on March 30th. Some faculty believe, "believes that ultimately, what the administration really wants is a continuation of things as they are right now: no constitution, no Faculty Senate, and critical things that require faculty input (curriculum, P&T, handbook) handled by committees elected as needed for limited terms. After all, why does RPI need a Faculty Senate?" An offer to hold our Fall 2009 conference at RPI was not deemed wise but we hope have a contingent join us.
- Maintained contact with an Ithaca College Faculty member who in my opinion was denied tenure for what appears to be discriminatory and Academic Freedom issues. So far AAUP has not chosen to join in but the fight continues.
- With the help of our leadership group we were able to recommend legal support for a faculty member from Columbia University fighting a black listing and slander case. Thank you to those who responded with resource names.
- A D'Youville faculty member contacted us for help. This case is a union matter and a NLRB positive finding has already been rendered. Legal action us under way. We will continue to support this case in an informal capacity.

- Assistance to several other 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.

Motion:

We move that the conference accept the invitation to hold our NYS AAUP Conference Fall 2009 at Syracuse University October 16-17, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

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Executive Director

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