

**Report to New York State AAUP
Spring 2009 Meeting—April 17, 2009
National Council
Lenore Beaky**

1. Proposed At-Large Constitutional Amendment for the National Council

At the Fall 2008 meeting of the New York State AAUP, I reported that a proposal had come to the National Council in June 2008 from the Michigan Conference that one-third of the National Council be elected nationally rather than regionally, and that the Council had instructed Committee O to draft appropriate language to amend the constitution so as to effectuate this change. At our NY State meeting, concerns were expressed and a resolution was subsequently passed by the NY Conference that “the National Council . . . provide members and state conferences substantial time to review and discuss any proposed changes to the Council before they are submitted to the Annual Meeting for consideration.” [See full text of resolution, enclosed.]

At the Fall 2009 meeting of the National Council, the Council moved into a Committee of the Whole to facilitate informal discussion. During this discussion I reported on the concerns of our conference and read the resolution. After we had moved out of the Committee of the Whole, Charles Parrish moved that the proposal to elect 9 Council members nationally be approved and additionally, he proposed that the opinions of state conferences and chapters be solicited in time for consideration at the June Council meeting. This motion was approved, 21-11.

The March-April 2009 *Academe* includes a report on the Fall Council meeting as well as a Report on Proposed Constitutional Amendments Providing for “At-Large” Election of Council Members. [See full text of these amendments, enclosed.]

2. Some Other National Council Topics at its November 2008 Meeting

The Council affirmed its previously ratified joint organizing agreement between the AAUP and the AFT. Updates on the business office and new software purchases were provided, and a 2009 budget was presented and approved. Patricia Bentley moved that Council affirm the AAUP stance against recent movements in California, Arkansas and Florida to curtail the rights of their LGBTQ communities; this motion passed.

3. Recent Updates

Ward Churchill

On Thursday April 2, 2009, a jury in Denver ruled that Ward Churchill had been wrongfully terminated by the University of Colorado.

Following an online discussion by members of the National Council, the following resolution was approved by Council and has been posted to the AAUP website:

“We believe the disputes over Ward Churchill’s publications should have been allowed to work themselves out in traditional scholarly venues, not referred to disciplinary hearings. We believe Churchill should be reinstated to his faculty position at the University of Colorado.”

Restructuring and the IRS

On April 14, 2009, Laura A. Kumin, AAUP Counsel and Restructuring Project Manager, reported that the IRS has now approved the tax exempt status of all three new entities (the professional association, the union and the public charity). However, the IRS has yet to approve the request for a “private letter ruling,” a much more complex affair. The related documents describe “the entire arrangement and contemplated relationships among the entities,” according to Kumin. It is not known how long this part of the approval process will take but it’s hoped that a ruling might be issued by the end of this calendar year. (There are 22 other requests ahead of ours.)