

## NYS AAUP Conference Executive Director Report to the Spring Conference 2010

Welcome all. We want to thank the Professional Staff Congress for welcoming the NYS AAUP Conference to their facility for this meeting. We want to especially thank our Vice Lenore Beaky and Cecelia McCall for facilitating this meeting at PSC. This report will chronicle the Executive Director's activities on our behalf since our Fall Conference of October 2009.

### Activities:

- The NYS Conference membership is down slightly. National lists 4,899 members that is up from last Fall's 4,812 but still down from the 4,966 state members of record last spring. I am happy to report that National has consented to share members email addresses. We should decide who will have access to this information and who will determine the appropriate uses and frequency of use for this information in light of the potential of abuse that has prevented National AAUP from sharing this information prior to this.
- The design nysaaup.org has been redone to reflect the most current National AAUP color scheme. There are icon links to the AAUP Red Book and to join AAUP at the top of the home page. The site's content has been maintained and I appreciate any and all suggestions and corrections you have had for the site. While it may not look like we have much content the site is now over 80 MB and has approximately 1600 files. As things change I try to reflect those changes correctly in all places where that information gets linked to but sometimes miss things so your feedback is appreciated.
- Contributed an article for the NY Academe Newspaper.
- Continued contact with RPI about the status of the suspension of the Faculty Senate at RPI by President Shirley Jackson. In March the faculty of RPI began to reactivate their AAUP Chapter. They currently have 16 AAUP members. Nancy Campbell is active in this effort. We have offered to have a state representative come to one of their future meetings.
- Our Constitution Amendment Committee set up at our fall conference has been extremely active since it was formed. Estelle Gellman, Irwin Yellowitz, Jeff Kraus, and I have kept President Goldberg apprised of our progress and deliberations. A large part of this conference will involve an update report and further input on this activity.
- Laura Rola, a DOL Lawyer, questioned me on Friday the 13th of November pertaining to the civil charges brought against the National AAUP and several state conferences, including our own state, pertaining to our election procedures. Before I met with the DOL I contacted many of you for advise all of which was valuable and helpful. Thank you. I would especially like to thank Vice President Jeneault who drove from Syracuse to Rochester to participate. The 2 ½ hour interview was productive as well as informative for us. The DOL has since found fault with AAUP necessitating a reelection of the chair of ASC, and has been supportive of our changing our Constitution so that our future elections meet a

sufficient standard to not be challenged. Because our State Conference was aware of the challenge before last years ASC elections, we abstained from voting in that election which was the wise choice. By the time our representatives have the opportunity to vote again our Constitution and Election procedures should be improved to comply with the improved standards DOL has suggested. I would like to note at this point that “the standard” our state conference must achieve has no clear guidelines or president organizationally for us to replicate hence the tremendous amount of conference time that has been dedicated to satisfying the expectation of law.

- The DOL investigation related to election procedures has had an additional impact on the conference. Our UUP membership has requested a renegotiation with National AAUP of the terms for their membership in AAUP to exclude any further DOL related issues regarding AAUP elections rolling onto UUP. UUP is an institutionally based rather than individually based members organization. Their current AAUP 1000 paying members are not elected from the overall ~20,000 UUP membership and so there are issues with these members participating fully in the governance of AAUP. It is very important for our Conference to do what we can to facilitate a satisfactory resolution to this situation. You will notice that our UUP Colleagues are not in attendance at this conference and they have withdrawn their candidacy for office and committee leadership as well!
- At RIT we continue to be involved with three faculty related to non-renewal of faculty positions. All three cases are currently in the dismissal for cause and/or grievance processes of the Institute.
- We have continued to support and raise awareness for the work conditions of adjuncts working at RIT. We have moved our follow up survey to the fall. The Institute has initiated for the first time a robust adjunct faculty orientation and made it available to all current adjuncts regardless of time with RIT since there never was one before. Adjunct reports about the experience were very positive.
- Assistance to several other state faculty members seeking information and contacts for support for tenure and job related issues have been provided and when appropriate passed onto Committee A.
- Assisted the At-Large Conference leadership in organizing this conference.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tom Policano**

*Executive Director*

NYS Conference AAUP

PO Box 20047

Rochester, NY 14602

tpolicano@nysaaup.org

888.690.2287

585.719.7137

585.427.8526 Fax

