

## NYS AAUP Conference Executive Director Report to the Spring Conference 2011

Welcome all. We want to thank St Francis for welcoming the NYS AAUP Conference to their campus for this meeting. We want to especially thank Peter Gomori for facilitating this meeting at St Francis College. This report will chronicle the Executive Director's activities on our behalf since our Fall Conference of October 2010.

### Activities:

- The NYS Conference membership is down slightly. National lists 4,383 members as of 2/22/11 that is down 4.4% from last Fall's 4,584 state members.
- Continued to maintain nysaaup.org.
- Contributed articles for our recent issue of NY Academe.
- Continued contact with RPI about the status of the suspension of the Faculty Senate at RPI by President Shirley Jackson.
- Facilitated a meeting in Buffalo with Kate Eskew, Fred Floss, and Frank Higman to discuss NYSC issues and ways to better work with UUP.
- I will orally update the conference regarding the complaints by Virginai Fichera to the DOL, our work with our lawyer Beth Margolis of Gladstein, Reif & Meginniss, our letter of agreement with the Department of Labor (DOL), and our DOL supervised rerun election.
- Communicated to the other AAUP State Conferences about our NYSC DOL investigation. I want to thank the Texas Conference for their \$500 contribution to defray our legal costs. I would like to thank ASC as well for their contribution to our legal costs. Finally, I want to especially thank the National AAUP for making up the difference of our legal expenses thus far in this matter.
- Administered to the DOL supervised election in its entirety supervised by Marla Tumiel of the Buffalo DOL. Special thanks to Frank Higman as chair of the Election Committee for his full participation in this effort as well. I would like to also compliment and thank President Linton for his advise, leadership, cooperation, and availability to me during this whole period of time.
- Congratulations to John Polimeni (Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences) and Fred Brodzinski (CCNY, CUNY) in winning the DOL supervised At Large Member re-election from last year by acclamation.
- Results should be out soon for the NYSC elections for this year and the voluntary rerun of last year's election that was piggybacked onto the National AAUP elections for the first time this year. As part of our strategy for meeting the challenge of the DOL complaints received about our election procedures, I want to thank all the NYSC leaders who in good faith, voluntarily agreed to rerun for their 2010 positions.
- President Linton & I have been in discussions with Rachel Levinson on how it may still be possible to reverse the DOL finding that the NYSC is under their jurisdiction according to LMRDA and must therefore conduct itself accordingly. I asked Treasurer Cihon to prepare the LM-1 tax forms required by LMRDA but to

- not submit those documents until we have exhausted every means to reverse the DOL decision.
- I am recommending that our Constitution Amendment Committee resume meeting to address additional amendments that will further improve our organization and eliminate language that results in the DOL considering us under their jurisdiction.
  - The RIT the case that was turned down by the grievance committee, went to civil court where the court found that the faculty member deserved a grievance hearing. That hearing took most of the year to be organized and was held 4/14/11. The RIT AAUP Chapter Vice-President was the faculty advocate and presented the faculty members case to the committee.
  - The RIT AAUP Chapter has continued to support and raise awareness for the work conditions of adjuncts and lectures working at RIT. Numerous meetings with NTT Faculty resulted in a talking points document that has been shared with the Provost. Jeffrey Baker, a RIT AAUP chapter member, has been extremely active in all of this. The Provost has agreed to meet with the NTT Faculty to discuss this document. A major revision of the RIT Shared Governance Policy that would include two Lecturers as members is under discussion.
  - Assistance to several other state faculty members seeking information and contacts for support for tenure and job related issues have been provided though none have been referred to our Committee A.
  - Assisted the At-Large Conference leadership in organizing this conference.
  - Submitted our renewal application for our Executive Indemnity Policy.
  - Worked closely with President Linton, Gary Rhodes, and many of our UUP friends to urge UUP's continued AAUP affiliation. UUP did vote to remain affiliated with AAUP for another two years. A major concern for UUP is the possible non-renewal of the AAUP Executive Director Gary Rhodes' 3yr contract.
  - NYSC ASC grant application was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

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*Executive Director*

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