

# AAUP

# Voice

March 2007

*"Academic freedom for a free society"*

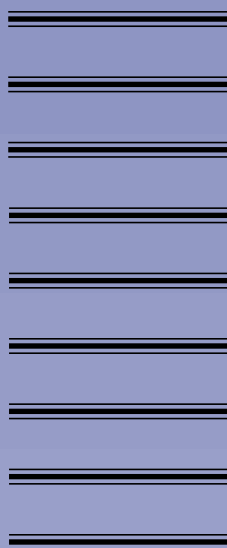
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## Taking Care of Business

### Treasurer's Report

As can be seen in the Treasurer's Report for 2006, our chapter's finances are very strong. Our chapter ended the year with a net gain of \$29,100.

The chapter's total receipts for 2006 were \$158,171. Income from dues accounted for \$135,718 of which nearly half was remitted to the national AAUP. Income from interest and miscellaneous sources accounted for \$22,453. Interest and miscellaneous sources of income accounted for approximately 14% of total income. A prudent investment strategy for the chapter's accumulated reserves explains the large share of income that comes from interest and other earnings.

On the expenditure side, the largest disbursements for running our chapter went to compensation for office staff, producing the monthly newsletter, donations (the largest of which was a gift to the national AAUP endowment fund), and annual student awards. Total expenditures for the chapter amounted to \$61,697.

### *Benefits of Financial Strength*

The financial strength of our chapter is very beneficial to the membership and to the faculty members in the bargaining unit that we represent. Because over 14% of the chapter's income comes from earnings on reserves, our chapter is able to maintain low membership dues. We have the lowest chapter dues of any comparable AAUP collective bargaining chapter. We have not had a local dues increase for fifteen years. In addition, our reserves enable the chapter to provide free membership for the first year for new members.

Our chapter's financial strength also serves us well in collective bargaining and in maintaining our contract. Should we face difficult contract negotiations, we have the resources to inform our membership, the wider university community, and the public about our values, goals and bargaining positions. If need be, we have the resources for any legal representation or expertise that we may need to represent the faculty.

The chapter's financial strength enables the AAUP to participate in the wider University community as exemplified by the two undergraduate student awards that are announced on Honors Day and through participation in the University Forum with the Provost's Office.

### *Planned Audit*

The accumulated balances and dues income require that the leadership be fully transparent in accounting for the chapter's finances. In addition to our annual report, the Executive Council has engaged an independent auditor to review the chapter's finances.

### **Membership**

While it is easy to keep track of the chapter's finances, getting exact information on membership poses some difficulties. The best way to track memberships is by knowing which faculty members have signed up for dues deduction. With retirements, the addition of new faculty members, faculty members entering and

leaving administrative positions, faculty members joining the AAUP at various times during the academic year, and with the chapter's dependence on *Peoplesoft* for information, it is often difficult to get a membership count in which we have a very high degree of confidence.

With these caveats in mind, membership in the AAUP appears to be stable at around 50% of the eligible faculty. The stability is understandable in light of two factors. First, our campus has experienced rapid faculty turnover in recent years and approximately 100 new faculty members have been added in the past several years in addition to those who have been replaced. Second, we are in the second year of a three-year contract. Typically, membership growth during the middle year of a three-year contract is slow compared to growth during preparations for and actual contract negotiations.

We cannot, however, be satisfied with maintaining past levels of membership. Given the change in administration that we face over the next academic year and forthcoming negotiations over salary, benefits and working conditions, it is imperative that the AAUP demonstrate its bargaining strength by adding significantly to our membership. While we have financial strength and a dedicated and seasoned leadership, the greatest power that we have in representing the interests and values of the faculty is a growing membership that participates in the life of the AAUP.

With all of the challenges that faculty face both locally and nationally regarding academic freedom, the structure of our profession, and threats to our health benefits and economic status, this is not a time for nonmembers to continue to get a free ride on the dues and participation of others. Over the next year, it is a key goal of the Executive Committee to gain membership and build a stronger organization to articulate and realize the faculty's values and interests.

If you are not a member, join by either completing a dues deduction card or visiting <http://www.udel.edu/aaup/membership/>

## TREASURER'S REPORT

December 31, 2006

The following were the un-audited cash receipts and disbursements for the University of Delaware Chapter of the AAUP for the year ending December 31, 2006:

**BEGINNING BALANCE:** \$347,425

### RECEIPTS:

Dues Income	\$135,718
Interest Income	21,591
Misc.	862
Total Receipts	\$158,171

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Bank Charges	\$ 525
Consulting (newsletter)	6,345
Dues Paid to National AAUP	67,374
Donations	5,500
Dues & Subscriptions	1,361
Electronic communications	295
Insurance	2,196
Legal and Accounting	1,803
Newsletter	735
Miscellaneous	412
National AAUP conferences & meetings	1,356
Office Staff	24,144
Office Supplies/Expenses	2,279
Postage	341
Printing (including Newsletter)	6,044
Reimbursements	2,862
Repairs & Maintenance	1,499
Student awards	4,000
Total Disbursements	\$129,071

**ENDING BALANCE:** \$372,115

Net gain (loss) \$ 29,100

Anyone wishing to have more information, please call the AAUP Office at 831-2292

Sheldon D. Pollack, Treasurer

## AAUP Voice

Gerry Turkel, Editor

The AAUP Voice is the official newsletter of the University of Delaware Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

The Voice is published monthly, September through June of each academic year.

The Executive Council acts as editorial board. During contract negotiations or when otherwise warranted, Bargaining Team members also participate on the board.

### AAUP Executive Council:

**Linda Bucher, President**  
**Danilo Yanich, Vice President**  
**Kevin Kerrane, Secretary**  
**Sheldon D. Pollack, Treasurer**  
**Steven Dentel, At-Large**  
**Patricia Barbara, At-Large**  
**Gerry Turkel, Past President**

**Leon Campbell**  
**Contract Officer**  
**831-6767**

**David Smith**  
**Grievance Officer**  
**831-2275**

**Rita Girardi**  
**AAUP Office Manager**  
**301 McDowell**  
**Phone: 831-2292**  
**Fax: 831-4119**  
**Website:**  
**<http://www.udel.edu/aaup/>**

**Hours: M-TH (9 a.m.-2 p.m.)**

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## Crisis of Iraqi Universities

Universities in Iraq are deeply affected by the chaos and bloodshed that characterize Iraqi society. On January 17, 2007, two blasts at Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad killed over seventy people and wounded many more. In late February, a female suicide bomber detonated an explosive vest at a Baghdad business college killing approximately 40 people. In a report on National Public Radio, the Iraqi minister of education said that although the college age population has been growing in Iraq and the number of students enrolled in institutions of higher education has been increasing, only 30% of Iraqi students are attending classes due to the collapse of security.

The weakening and virtual breakdown of university research and education in Iraq has developed over decades. After Saddam Hussein appointed himself president in 1979, academics were subject to surveillance, dismissals, police sanctions, prison, and threats of violence if they came under suspicion by the regime. Scholars often found it hard to travel abroad, and research and teaching were shaped by the political imperatives of Saddam Hussein's regime. After the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the first Gulf war, UN imposed sanctions virtually ended the contacts that Iraqi scientists had with the rest of the world. Both foreign governments and the Saddam Hussein regime made life for Iraqi academics increasingly difficult. They were no longer allowed to travel abroad, publication in foreign journals ended, and they could no longer buy new scientific equipment and scholarly literature.

According to a 2003 article in *Science*, the military conflict has severely undermined higher education in Iraq. U.S. troops ransacked science departments in their search for weapons of mass destruction. With weak security at universities, Iraqi looters raided campuses and stole equipment, destroyed libraries and classrooms, and dismantled the physical infrastructure of higher education. A recent United Nations report states that 40% of the infrastructure has been destroyed. "The Iraqi Academy of Sciences, founded in 1948 to promote Arabic language and heritage, saw its digital and traditional library partially looted during the war and it alone needs almost \$1 million in infrastructure repairs to reestablish itself as a leading research center," the UN study states.

The security situation at Iraqi universities is dreadful. According to Higher Education Minister Dhjab Ujaili, at least 195 university professors have been killed and another 60 kidnapped during 2006 and early 2007. Militias from Islamic organizations have infiltrated the universities, threatening professors and students, especially

women. In addition, almost 40% of Iraqi scientists and academics have left the country, many of them fleeing to Jordan and to Iran. The number of people teaching in Iraqi universities with Ph.D. degrees has declined dramatically.

The UN report on Iraqi higher education fully recognizes and documents the devastation that has occurred. At the same time it sees some hopeful signs. Subjects such as democracy, human rights and antiterrorism have been included in the curriculum. While there has not been a dedicated budget for higher education from the central government, it does appear that funding has been increasing. While \$40 million was allocated for higher education in 2003, almost \$70 million was allocated in 2007. Both the UN and the World Bank have been funding the upgrading of university teachers and teachers salaries. In addition, the First Lady of Qatar initiated The International Fund for Higher Education in Iraq with a donation of \$15 million. Donations have been made to this fund by several banks and by South Korea.

As academics, we have a special responsibility to bear witness to the crisis of higher education in Iraq, to inform the wider public of conditions in Iraqi universities and colleges, and to participate in efforts to end the devastation that is occurring. Rebuilding higher education should be a top priority of U.S. policy in Iraq.

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## April Survey: Tell Us Your Concerns

Look for an AAUP survey questionnaire that will be sent to you via campus mail in April. The brief questionnaire will focus on issues such as personal expenditures on professional activities and workload issues. Please take the time to fill out the questionnaire and to raise issues that may not be covered by the questions that are of concern to you.

The AAUP leadership needs to know what issues are of concern to faculty members. Faculty members get in touch with us individually about concerns that affect them personally, about problems that they encounter in their departments, and about conditions that they think could be improved across campus. These individual expressions of concern provide valuable information to the AAUP about issues that we should focus on in our dealings with the administration. In addition, we welcome the opportunity to meet with groups of faculty who have shared concerns about issues that affect them. We especially welcome invitations to departmental and college meetings where we can inform faculty about our activities and gain information from faculty about their unit's policies in implementing the *Collective Bargaining Agreement* and related policies. We encourage you to arrange a visit with a member of the AAUP Executive member to your department by contacting Rita Girardi at [aaup-mail@udel.edu](mailto:aaup-mail@udel.edu).

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**AAUP**

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DELAWARE**



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