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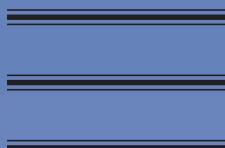
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ELECTION RESULTS FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS

At the close of the election for chapter officers on Monday, November 24, 149 AAUP members had cast ballots. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of the candidates:

President:	Joan DelFattore	—	97 percent Yes
Vice President:	Danilo Yanich	—	98 percent Yes
Secretary:	Patricia Barber	—	97 percent Yes
Treasurer:	Sheldon Pollack	—	96 percent Yes

Approximately 29 percent of the chapter's members voted in this election. This was the first time that an electronic ballot was used for a chapter election. The percentage of members participating was slightly higher than the last election in 2005. The 2005 election was conducted by paper ballot, and 26 percent of the membership voted.

The elected officers will take on their responsibilities beginning January 1, 2009. Linda Bucher will serve as past president and will be a voting member of the Executive Council. One of the first priorities of the officers will be to select two At-Large members to serve on the Executive Council as voting members.

SAME SEX DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

At the beginning of last year's contract negotiations, the AAUP leadership was informed by the administration that the University had decided to extend same sex domestic partner benefits to University employees. The same sex domestic partner benefits are equivalent to spousal and dependent benefits with the extremely important exclusion of health insurance which is controlled by the State of Delaware. The Collective Bargaining Agreement now reflects the inclusion of same sex domestic partners. All of the provisions affecting faculty rights and benefits have been extended through the contract to same sex domestic partners. The full policy, including the definition of a same sex domestic partnership and the registration process, may be obtained by contacting the UD Office of Human Resources-Benefits at 831-2171 or Ben-Serv@Udel.edu

We are very pleased that the University decided to join the many other prominent institutions of higher education, corporations, and state governments that provide same sex domestic partner benefits. This has long been a priority of the AAUP. Beginning in contract negotiations in 1995 with David Colton as Chief Negotiator, the AAUP has bargained for these benefits and has helped make them a public issue on our campus. The demand for same sex domestic partner benefits was the subject of many hours of negotiation and was often discussed in AAUP newsletters. In addition, same sex domestic partner benefits have strong faculty support. When members of the bargaining unit were surveyed prior to the last contract negotiation, for example, 70 percent of respondents supported domestic partner benefits.

Although major progress has been made on this issue, we face an important challenge in extending health insurance to same sex domestic partners. This will require action by the newly elected leaders of Delaware. All of us who are committed to equal rights should make our voices heard and demand that the State of Delaware extend health insurance benefits to same sex domestic partners. These benefits are provided by our neighboring states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Delaware should no longer lag behind on providing health insurance to same sex domestic partners.

DELAWARE'S DECLINING SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Each year the Grapevine Project compiles data on state tax support for higher education. The Grapevine Project is located at the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University. Data for Fiscal Year 2008 were made public on the Grapevine web site on December 3.

Over the past two fiscal years, from 2006 to 2008, Delaware increased its appropriations for higher education by 12.5 percent. It ranked 35th among the fifty states over this period. By comparison, Maryland increased its higher education appropriations by 24 percent and ranked 8th. Pennsylvania increased its appropriations by 7 percent and ranked 46th. New Jersey's support actually declined by .3 percent. It ranked at the very bottom.

Over the past year, for 2008, Delaware increased its higher education appropriations by 4.2 percent. It ranked 41st among the fifty states last year in terms of its increased support for higher education. Maryland increased its higher education appropriations by 9.5 percent giving it a

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
Patricia Barber, At-Large
Calvin Keeler, At-Large
Gerry Turkel, Past President*

*Leon Campbell
Contract Officer
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ranking of 17th. Pennsylvania increased by 1.8 percent and ranked 47th. New Jersey increased its appropriations by 2.7 percent giving it a ranking of 45th. North Dakota, by comparison, ranked first with an increase of 19.1%.

Percentage increases, of course, do not tell the whole story of higher education funding. States that have historically provided high levels of support, for example, are likely to show smaller yearly increases compared to the yearly increases by states that have had low levels of support over long periods of time. Despite this limitation, percent increases do indicate current levels of commitment to higher education funding.

Other indicators used by Grapevine are how much of state tax funds are used for higher education operating expenses per \$1,000 of personal income and per capita. For 2008, Delaware ranks above midpoint for measures. Delaware allocated \$7 of tax revenues for every \$1,000 of personal income for education operating expenses giving it a ranking of 24. Delaware appropriated \$281.15 per capita for higher education operating expenses giving it a ranking of 19. To give some perspective on these measures, New Mexico was the highest ranked state in terms of operating expenses for higher education per \$1,000 of personal income. New Mexico provided \$15.65 for higher education operating expenses per \$1,000 of personal income. Wyoming ranked first in per capital appropriations at \$536.96.

The immediate future of state funding in Delaware appears grim. Looking specifically at funding for the University of Delaware, the state appropriated \$116,892,000 for operating expenses for 2007-08. For 2008-09, the state is appropriating \$116,469,000. The state is appropriating \$423,000 less for 2008-09 than for 2007-08.

With today's severe economic conditions, we recognize that the state faces many competing priorities with dwindling revenues. Despite the current challenges, it is extremely short sighted for the State of Delaware to reduce its funding for the University. The University provides vast human and social capital for the state. These are crucial foundations for innovation, economic growth and an enlightened citizenry. Reducing financial support to the University undermines these foundations and opportunities for the people of Delaware.

IRAQ'S RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST ACADEMICS

A conference hosted by UNESCO was told "the international community should explicitly recognize crimes against educators as crimes against humanity or war crimes." As reported by Brendan O'Malley for *University World News*, the statement was made by Hasni Abidi of the International Committee for the Protection of Iraqi Academics to 150 Iraqi government officials, members of parliament, university presidents and experts. In addition, Abidi said, "We condemn forcefully the gross human rights violations aimed at the education system in Iraq and we call upon the international community to spare no effort to protect the education system and establish mechanisms to prevent such attacks." Other speakers called for a system to monitor and document "all the violations against education systems, academics and students."

According to the Iraqi Ministry of Education, there had been 31,600 attacks against education institutions between the fall of Saddam Hussein and September 2007. 259 academics were assassinated, 72 were

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abducted, and 174 were detained. More than 100 students had been killed. According to some reports from Iraq's Ministry of Human Rights, as many as 340 academics were killed during 2005-07.

A working group at the conference recommended:

- An independent international investigation of such crimes be established;
- Mechanisms to secure the safety and security of educators and students be created and the neutrality of educational institutions and curricula be established
- The Iraqi government should prosecute all perpetrators and compensate families of the killed academics.

O'Malley also reported that the UN found that there had been a dramatic increase in the number of attacks worldwide on education targets since 2004. In its report the UN recommended international action to "embed protection of teachers and academics with human rights law."

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

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