

February/March 2009

"Academic freedom for a free society"

Read About

Linda Bucher's
Farewell Remarks
p. 1

Election for
National AAUP Council
p. 2

Higher Education: Need
for "Heavy Lifting"
by State Legislatures
p.3

AAUP's Low Dues
p. 3

Linda Bucher, Past President: Farewell Remarks

This past December marked the end of my second term as president of the UD-AAUP. I officially began serving the union in 1995 as a member of the Steering Committee and the journey since then has been challenging and rewarding. Over this time period, the AAUP has realized many accomplishments. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight several of them and thank all those who worked to make them a reality.

- Four contracts were successfully negotiated during my time on the Council. These negotiations were led by the AAUP's chief negotiators, David Colton and, most recently, Gerry Turkel. Their efforts, along with those of the bargaining team members, have resulted in continuing improvements in salary and benefits.
- Membership in the AAUP has remained steady but several strategies have been initiated over the past years to encourage faculty to join. All newly hired faculty are provided a one year free membership that includes both national and local dues. Other faculty wishing to join are provided with free local dues for the first year of membership.
- The Awards Committee, composed of volunteer faculty, has worked under the leadership of Robert Taggart and, most recently, Joan Couch each year to select promising undergraduates who demonstrate strong potential for success in graduate school. At the recommendation of the committee, the Council doubled the award allocation in 2003.
- The AAUP website underwent a major redesign in an effort to enhance communication with the faculty (<http://www.udel.edu/aaup/>). Copies of the *AAUP VOICE* (formerly the *aaUPBEAT*) continued to be accessible but new information was also made available. Starting in 2005, the Executive Council and Steering Committee minutes have been posted online. This decision was made in an effort to achieve and maintain transparency in the organization's work.
- Our chapter has remained financially strong. This has been, in large part, due to the vigilance of the (continuing) Treasurer, Sheldon Pollack. Annual reports of the chapter's finances have been posted on the website since 2004.

Con't on Page 2

- Another new initiative undertaken by the Council has been the use of electronic surveys for a variety of purposes. The first such survey was used to collect important pre-bargaining data from faculty in the fall of 2007. Others have been used to survey the non-AAUP faculty members in an attempt to understand reasons for non membership and to conduct the most recent election of the new Council members.
- The strong leadership of the Grievance Officer, David Smith, and the Contract Maintenance Officer, Leon Campbell, has provided bargaining unit members with important advice and guidance over the years. The diligence provided by these volunteer officers has served faculty who have faced challenges with respect to contract and work related issues.

These are but a few of the highlights of the work of the Executive Council during my terms as president. I would be remiss if I failed to mention and thank our out-going Secretary, Kevin Kerrane, for his meticulousness in recording the work of the Council and our (returning) Vice President, Danilo Yanich, for his contributions and continued willingness to serve. Similarly, the participation of Patricia Barber (returning as Secretary) and Calvin Keeler, members-at-large, has made significant contributions to the work of the Council during their terms. It has been my honor to serve with people who voluntarily dedicated their time to represent all faculty.

In January, the new Council, under the leadership of President Joan DelFattore, began its term. One of the first orders of business will be to fill the openings on the Steering Committee. This will be important as the Council will be preparing for bargaining in the fall. In closing, I invite each of you to consider joining the AAUP if you are not a member and, better yet, to consider becoming involved in the union if you are not. Your voice is important to us.

Election for National AAUP Council

An election will take place this semester for national AAUP Council, District X, which includes Delaware. The two candidates for the position are Adolph L. Reed, Jr., Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, and Gerald Turkel, Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies at the University of Delaware. Statements by the candidates are available on the national AAUP website under *Candidates for 2009 Elections* (<http://www.aaup.org/aaup>).

For the first time, this election for national AAUP offices will be conducted electronically rather than by paper ballots. All eligible voters will receive an election notice by conventional mail. The notice will contain the member's ID number which is required for voting and the member's email address.

Continued on page 3

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 appears four times a year, twice in the fall semester and twice in the spring semester.

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:

**Joan DelFattore, President
Danilo Yanich, Vice President
Patricia Barber, Secretary
Sheldon D. Pollack, Treasurer
Calvin Keeler, At-Large
Prasad Dhurjati, At-Large
Linda Bucher, 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.)**

Provision will be made for voters who prefer to vote by telephone and/or do not have an email address registered with national AAUP. The voting procedures will provide voter security and ballot secrecy.

Ballots will be made available between February 25 and March 2. The final date to vote will be April 15. Ballot counting will take place on April 16. *Voters should pay attention to the notice they will receive by mail with their ID number since the ID number is required for voting.*

Higher Education: Need for “Heavy Lifting” by State Legislatures

John M. Mutz, Chairman of the Lumina Foundation for Education, called on state legislatures to focus on higher education for the future success of their states and the country (*State Legislatures*, February 2008: 15-17). Mutz pointed out that both the number of applicants for higher education has been increasing and that the number of jobs requiring postsecondary education has doubled since the 1970s. Yet the United States has not kept up with its international competitors. He cites a report by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development that shows that the United States has fallen from first place in the percentage of 25 to 34 year olds with college degrees to tenth place in recent years. The cost of attending college has risen more rapidly in the United States than household incomes, and the availability of financial aid has not kept pace with tuition increases.

While some of Mutz’s policy suggestions that focus on making higher education more efficient are controversial, his message to state legislators is unambiguous:

. . .Global economic activity is here to stay. There’s no turning back the clock. When you compete today, you’re not just up against other states, you’re competing against Ireland, France, Germany, and Japan.

In these very trying economic times, we must communicate to our state legislators and to government officials that investments in higher education are necessary for the future of Delaware and, most especially, Delaware’s youth. If we are to emerge from the current economic crisis with the resources to grow and to develop economically and socially, investments by the state in higher education should be maintained.

AAUP’s Low Dues

Our AAUP chapter has the lowest local dues of any comparable collective bargaining chapter. Our local dues are \$130.00 a year and have not been increased for the past fifteen years. New members get free dues for the first year, and newly appointed faculty get free local and national dues for the first year. The low dues are possible because of very prudent management of our funds and by the fact that the work done by the AAUP is almost all done voluntarily by AAUP members.

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® 10