

# Report on AAUP National Convention

By Ken Andersen

The Illinois Conference was well represented at the June National AAUP meeting. Presentations at the conference held in conjunction with the annual meeting. John Wilson (Illinois Academe Editor) was a panelist on "Ensuring Academic Freedom in Politically Controversial Academic Personnel Decisions." Cary Nelson, AAUP National President (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), spoke on "Something Wicked This Way Comes: What Is Happening and What We Can Do About It." Additionally, Nelson made a number of presentations during the course of the convention as well as presiding over the Annual Meeting itself.

Meeting of the Association of State Conferences (ASC): Joerg Tiede (Illinois Wesleyan University) was one of six candidates for Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee of the Association of State Conferences (ASC). While not elected in the runoff between the two top candidates, he received a significant percentage of that vote. Joerg also described his chapter development work in Illinois at the ASC program for state conferences. Ken Andersen (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) served as chair of the ASC credentials committee.

The major issue at the ASC meeting was whether it would join in a Collective Bargaining Congress (CBC) resolution to condemn the review process that led to the resignation of Gary Rhoades as Executive Director. The ASC did not support the CBC resolution but adopted one thanking Rhodes for his service. A similar resolution was adopted at the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting: Not surprisingly, issues relating to the process in the evaluation of Gary Rhodes and some criticism of National Office staff carried over into the plenary session. (The agreement relative to the decision of Gary Rhodes is confidential by his choice and so some questions could not be answered.)

The success of the unionization effort at the University of Illinois at Chicago was highlighted, as well as ongoing organizing efforts. Concerns about the efforts of various governors and legislatures affecting tenure and various elements in the academy received significant attention with descriptions of efforts to respond as in Ohio, for example.

Software issues were a factor in the auditor's report expressing concern about accurate and complete financial information. A resolution was adopted mandating the resolution of the problems. This is the second year that the Association finished with a positive financial outcome.

Membership: Association membership stands at 48K and is relatively stable. However, the composition of the membership has changed over time, with 67% collective bargaining members and 33% advocacy members. A Life Membership option available at age 60 was adopted with the payments tied to age of the individual: age 60, \$1800; 65-69, \$1200; 70 and older, \$800.

Bethune-Cookman University (Florida) was placed on the AAUP Censure List and the University of New Orleans and Loyola University New Orleans were removed. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Idaho State University were placed on the AAUP list of institutions sanctioned for substantial non-compliance with generally-accepted standards of academic governance.