

National AAUP News

AAUP's Summer Institute, July 24-27, 2003

By Lynne Meyer, Executive Director, AAUP-IL

Held in Albuquerque at the University of New Mexico, this year's Institute boasted a record 230 attendees from across the nation. The Illinois Conference was represented by two delegates: State Council member Leo Welch (Conference lobbyist and past president), and Lynne Meyer, Executive Director of the Conference.

Seminars on a wide variety of topics, followed by a welcome banquet and an informative, if sobering, panel discussion on the topic "State Fiscal Crises and Higher Education," marked the start of the four-day event. The next two days were devoted to workshops on everything from faculty handbooks, shared governance, and contract negotiations to membership recruitment, lobbying, and effective campaigning. Conversations were enlightening and often spirited, as people exchanged ideas and related tales both of horror and of success.

Despite the long days, many attendees found the energy to take advantage of AAUP-sponsored opportunities to explore the area. Friday night's highlight was the tram ride to the top of Sandia Peak, which offered not only a spectacular view but also a welcome respite from the sweltering late-July heat. On Saturday evening, a large group traveled to nearby state capital Santa Fe for a little unstructured R & R. Others stayed closer to campus and took advantage of Albuquerque's many attractions.

The Institute wrapped up on Sunday with more seminars, followed by a goodbye brunch. Having been given much to think about, many attendees pronounced the affair a success, and left in anticipation of next year.

Contingent Faculty Policy Adopted

The governing Council of the American Association of University Professors adopted a new policy statement, *Contingent Appointments and the Academic Profession*, on November 9, 2003. The statement addresses the increasing overreliance on part-time and non-tenure-track faculty that threatens the quality and stability of higher education and the academic profession's capacity to serve the public good. Read the new policy at www.aaup.org.

The Illinois AAUP's Annual Meeting in April 2004 in Chicago will focus on contingent faculty, as will the next issue of *Illinois Academe*. For more information or to submit an article or book review, contact editor John K. Wilson at jkwilso2@ilstu.edu.

The AAUP also has announced a new contingent faculty fund for research, publication, leadership development, and other assistance to contingent faculty. Benjamin Johnson, Patrick Kavanagh, and Kevin Mattson will donate all royalties from the new book they have edited, *Steal This University: The Rise of the Corporate University and the Academic Labor Movement* (Routledge, 2003) to the AAUP fund. Contributions may be mailed to: Contingent Faculty Fund, AAUP, P.O. Box 96132, Washington, DC 20077-7020.

National Security and Academic Freedom

In a new report (published in the Nov./Dec. issue of *Academe*), an AAUP Special Committee on Academic Freedom and National Security in a Time of Crisis assessed the risks to academic freedom in the wake of 9-11. UIUC law professor Matt Finkin was one member of the committee.

AAUP Annual Meeting

The national AAUP Annual Meeting was held in June in Washington, D.C., and IL AAUP representatives at the event included Ken Andersen, Joe Felder, Pan Papacosta, and John K. Wilson.

The AAUP members voted to remove four institutions from the censured list and added none, although a resolution criticizing the administration of the University of South Florida for its violation of due process in the Sami Al-Arian case was passed (censure was not recommended by Committee A because internal appeal procedures have not been fully exhausted). The president of one institution was on hand to urge removal from censure, and noted that his first priority upon becoming president was to urge changes in campus procedures so that the university would no longer be under AAUP censure.

Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (D-N.Y.) received the Henry T. Yost Congressional Recognition Award. Eileen Burchell, an AAUP member from Marymount College of Fordham University received the Georgina Smith Award for improving the status of academic women or advancing collective bargaining. San Francisco Chronicle reporter Seth Rosenfeld won the Iris Molotsky Award for Excellence in Coverage of Higher Education for his remarkable series that took more than a decade of fighting for Freedom of Information Act requests, "The Campus Files: Reagan, Hoover and the UC Red Scare" (available online at www.sfgate.com/campus).

The Alexander Meiklejohn Award for Academic Freedom went to Molly Corbett Broad, president of the University of North Carolina, for defending the right of faculty and staff to select a book about the Qu'ran for a freshman reading program in 2002 (see the summer 2003 issue of *Illinois Academe* for more details. Shortly after the AAUP meeting, conservative groups and state legislators launched an attack on the book selected by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for 2003, Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed*.