

President's Report:

We Must All Become Ambassadors

At a recent faculty meeting, I spoke of the importance of having an active AAUP chapter on the campus. A colleague asked me, "But what is AAUP? I never heard of this organization." His question shocked me, and plunged me into long and painful reflection. He made me realize that some of our colleagues have never heard of our organization, its many services and the very principles that it defends and promotes. I am sorry to admit that this is a problem on both state and national levels, and it needs our urgent attention.

I believe that one of the best ways to properly address this challenge is for all of us to become active ambassadors of AAUP and all that it stands for. We need to acknowledge, openly and without fear, our affiliation and commitment to AAUP so that our colleagues can seek us out for advice, guidance and support in time of need.

We ourselves must be knowledgeable and well versed in AAUP principles and position statements. Now the gold standard in academia, they address academic freedom, tenure, due process, shared governance and many other critical issues. Each of us must be willing to become involved in the shared governance of our own institution. We must all see ourselves as ambassadors of AAUP.

The state office is doing its share of reaching out by creating a new breed of ambassadors which can be characterized as "peripatetic," a term for those whose mission can only be achieved by going from place to place. This new initiative, the Speakers Bureau, is designed to serve our members and chapters throughout the state. The Bureau is composed of experienced AAUP-Illinois leaders, who are committing their energy and time for the common good in academia. The names of the founding members of the Speakers Bureau are listed in this edition of *Illinois Academe* and will also be posted at our web site, www.ilaaup.org. To arrange for a speaker to come to your campus, please contact me or the speaker directly. The state office will undertake all related expenses. We urge all our members to make the most of this, the latest of our services and one which I am especially proud to announce.

Remember, the Speakers Bureau is only one of numerous services that the state office currently provides. We offer grants of up to \$300 per year to chapters that wish to arrange for a special event on their campus, as well as grants of up to \$500 to members who wish to start an AAUP chapter at their institution. For details visit our web site.

Finally, mark your calendars for what promises to be an exciting annual meeting. The theme of the meeting, which will be held in Chicago in April of 2004 (tentatively scheduled for either the 17th or the 24th), will be *Contingent Faculty*. We are planning to have a well-known figure as our plenary speaker, so do mark your calendars and plan to attend.

In closing, I wish to paraphrase a famous line from President Kennedy: "*Don't ask what AAUP can do for you. Ask instead what you can do for AAUP.*" One of the easiest ways of responding to this challenge is to become an active ambassador of AAUP at your own institution.

P. Papacosta
President AAUP-IL

Speakers Bureau

Ken Andersen, Speech Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, past president, IL AAUP:

- 1) Shared Governance and Due Process; 2) Academic Freedom & Tenure.

Joseph Felder, Economics Bradley University, Secretary, IL AAUP (member of AAUP National Council):

1) Academic challenges of the national AAUP office; 2) Types of services and assistance from the national AAUP office.

Jack Leahy, Religious Studies, DePaul University, and past president, IL AAUP:

1) Academic issues in religious affiliated institutions; 2.) Contingent faculty.

Pan Papacosta, Columbia College in Chicago, and president, IL AAUP:

1) Academic Freedom & Tenure; 2) The significance of the Faculty Handbook.

Lawrence Poston, English, University of Illinois at Chicago:

1) Academic freedom and tenure; 2) Academic governance.

Leo Welch, Biology, Southwestern Illinois College, and past president, IL AAUP:

1) Legislation and academia; 2) Collective bargaining issues in academia.

John K. Wilson, editor, *Illinois Academe*; founder, www.collegefreedom.org; Ph.D. student, Illinois State University:

1) History of Academic Freedom in America; 2) Students and academic freedom.

We invite all our chapters and members to make use of this Speaker Bureau. Contact IL AAUP Executive Director Lynne Meyer at (773) 510-5923, lmeyer@mindspring.com. We are accepting nominations and applications from experienced AAUP members who wish to serve on this bureau.