



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

Coastal Carolina University Chapter

AAUP is an organization of university faculty that promotes and defends the two fundamental pillars of the academy: **academic freedom** and **shared governance**. Academic freedom means that academics should not face recrimination (including pressure, intimidation, denial of tenure or dismissal) because of the subject matter of their research or instruction. Shared governance means that faculty should have a meaningful voice in decisions involving personnel, selection of administrators, budget, and determination of their university's educational policies, among other topics.

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THE AAUP-CCU UPDATE

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AAUP-CCU expands its leadership team, adding five new members

Back in April, the CCU chapter of AAUP issued a university-wide call for members of faculty to enter its leadership ranks. In an email sent to all CCU faculty, the AAUP-CCU Executive Committee asked for "the voice of every department in our University", if possible, to be represented in our organization. Particular interest was given to faculty from a number of academic disciplines that are historically under-represented in AAUP, such as the natural and social sciences, business and education.

In the weeks that followed, we heard from numerous colleagues from a variety of colleges and departments. In May, AAUP-CCU announced the official expansion of its leadership team with the following members:

- **Sharon Tutrone** (Communication) is our new Associated Faculty Representative.
- **Lee Hunter** (Education) serves as the AAUP's At-Large Faculty Representative.
- **Alex Hogue** represents Languages and Intercultural Studies as a member of our Committee of Delegates.
- **Dory Sibley** (Theatre) has also joined our Committee of Delegates.
- **Douglas Weathers** (Mathematics) is the third member of our Committee of Delegates.

These colleagues joined our existing leaders, Vice President **Allison Faix** (Kimbel Library), Secretary-Treasurer **Steve McCartney** (English), Membership Director **Tristan Daniels** (Kimbel Library), At-Large Faculty Representative **Jim Arendt** (Visual Arts), our most recent past President **Jose Sanjines** (Communications) and **Joseph Fitsanakis**, (Intelligence) who is entering his second year as chapter president.

AAUP-SC conference to meet in person for first time in two years



The [South Carolina state conference](#) of the AAUP is scheduled to hold its annual meeting on October 8 at Francis Marion University in Florence. It will be the conference's first face-to-face meeting since the spring of 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted plans for a state-wide meeting. Since then, meetings have been held online using the Zoom teleconferencing platform.

In a message to AAUP chapter leaders in August, conference president Shawn Smolen-Morton (Francis Marion University) shared his excitement about the event: "We have waited TWO LONG YEARS to honor special colleagues who have worked hard for a long time to strengthen academic freedom and to grow shared governance," he exclaimed.

Topics that will be discussed at the annual meeting include: the recent legal affiliation between the AAUP and the American Federation of Teachers; censure and sanction news from our state and beyond; the [University of Akron case](#); and lessons learned from the AAUP summer institute. Representatives from the new AAUP chapters at Winthrop University and the Citadel will also be welcomed at the meeting.

OUTREACH

AAUP-CCU participates in new faculty and staff EXPO

On August 17 the CCU chapter of the AAUP participated in the 2022 New Faculty and Staff EXPO. It was an event that brought together dozens of current and new faculty on campus. The EXPO was organized by the new Center for Professional Development and Academic Technology (formerly known as CeTEAL, TDSE, and COOL) and the College of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education. It aimed to introduce new faculty and staff to familiar faces across campus departments and the services they provide. The AAUP Chapter was represented by Vice President Allison Faix, At-large Faculty Representative Jim Arendt, and Chapter President Joseph Fitsanakis. In just under two hours, over 30 new faculty signed up asking to receive updates from AAUP. The new faculty also collected useful AAUP material, including copies of a short selection of the most recent (11th) edition of AAUP Policies and Reports.



NATIONAL UPDATES

AAUP chapters reach contract agreements after going on strike

Two AAUP chapters reached tentative contract agreements with university administration, after resorting to strike action in recent months.

At Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, faculty decided to go out on strike in early September, after accusing the administration of dragging its feet on negotiations about compensation. Furthermore, the faculty demanded that a new healthcare benefits scheme, which would have passed off exorbitant costs to faculty and staff, be scrapped. The strike action culminated in a four-day picket, which was supported from several unions in the area (notably teachers and nurses), as well as by students and community allies. Within a week, the university administration [agreed to settle](#) a fair contract.

At Rider University in New Jersey, the administration's push to increase faculty teaching loads while at the same time reducing benefit levels, prompted the faculty to take action. Faculty began holding informational pickets and coordinated to ask pointed questions at the university's annual faculty and staff convocation. Finally, a [tentative agreement](#) between the faculty and the university administration was reached on September 12.



Commenting on the victories of the AAUP faculty, AAUP Vice President Paul Davis said: "The fight is not easy and going on strike is always a last resort. The victories at EMU and Rider show what we can accomplish together with good planning, solidarity, and our combined strength."

STUDENT DEBT

The AAUP strongly supports government plan to alleviate student debt

In August, President Joe Biden announced a new plan to forgive up to \$20,000 in student debt for many borrowers. The AAUP welcomed this announcement, pointing out that the data on student debt show that people of color, and primarily women of color, are most heavily burdened. At the same time, however, AAUP officials noted that more comprehensive reform is needed.

On August 26, AAUP president Irene Mulvey said that, although President Biden’s announcement should be celebrated, it should be seen as “a hard-fought first step toward reaffirming the purpose and promise of higher education in our democracy.” She described it as “a transformative plan that will go a long way toward narrowing the racial wealth gap, which the student loan crisis has exacerbated.”

Mulvey vowed that the AAUP will continue to push for more actions and policies that alleviate student debt “in ways that move us towards a more just and equitable society”. She went on to say that the AAUP will “continue to advocate for robust and sustainable public funding for public education in order to address the root cause of the student debt crisis and demand that higher education in our country lives up to its promise for all.”

Meanwhile, the AAUP urged its members who carry student loans to read the useful [FAQ on the debt-forgiveness program](#) put together by the Student Borrower Protection Center, a nonprofit organization fighting on behalf of the millions of struggling student loan borrowers.

The AAUP also encouraged its members with student debt to enroll in the American Federation of Teachers’ [student debt clinics](#), which provide information on how to enroll in income-driven student loan repayment programs and provide help in enrolling in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. The debt clinics are offered at no cost and are held weekly.

AAUP members also have access to the free summer loan counseling program through the American Federation of Teachers. Information and a link to access the tool (member login required) can be found [here](#).

ATTACK ON TENURE IN SC

Washington Post publishes insightful op-ed on anti-tenure efforts by South Carolina lawmakers

Throughout 2021 and 2022, the AAUP-SC fought intensely against attempts by South Carolina lawmakers to cancel faculty tenure in higher education in our state. Although their attacks were unsuccessful, some lawmakers have plans to revive the “Cancelling Professor Tenure Act” in 2023. In February the Washington Post carried an [insightful op-ed](#) on the topic, written by Jesse Leo Kass, an associate professor of mathematics at the University of South Carolina.

Titled “South Carolina’s effort to cancel professor tenure echoes the 1950s”, the article also discusses efforts in our state to stop teaching critical race theory. Kass compares the situation in South Carolina with attacks that took place during the worst excesses of the Red Scare, “a national atmosphere of fear that Americans sympathetic to communism were committing treasonous acts in support of the Soviet Union.” He warns that the future “may closely resemble the situation in the 1950s, when an accomplished professor could be dismissed over a false accusation of being a Communist Party agent. Indeed”, he adds, “much of the current discourse surrounding ‘canceling tenure’ says that universities are promoting ‘socialist propaganda’ — statements that could well have been made in the 1950s”.

AAUP’s ACADEME MAGAZINE

Articles and stories that you should read



[Academic Motherhood and the Unrecognized Labors of Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Women of Color.](#) Unlike their tenured and tenure-track peers, non-tenure-track faculty women of color face further “identity taxation” in their careers as they navigate low wages and a lack of professional stability while being overburdened with institutional service linked to the desire for more minority representation throughout campus life. At the same time, they encounter the classism of institutional hierarchies maintained by other academics of color.

[What Do We Know about Campus Policies on Children in the Workplace?](#) We need to know more about policies and practices that address the presence of children on campus and their impact on employees’ and students’ personal and professional lives. Does your university have such policies? Most faculty members don’t know whether they require permission to bring their children to campus.