

Vice President Report:

Overall I would like the NYS AAUP to increase its presence in the state, and I would like us to consider three primary goals for the coming year:

To increase coalition building. There are many higher education organizations out there that we can create stronger alliances with to our mutual benefit. We can do this by assisting causes through letter writing, petitions, visits to local representatives offices and fax campaigns to keep our name in the forefront and to offer yet another voice to issues that face Higher education nationally and state-wide. I would like to discuss ways we can accomplish this through our website, newsletter, and carefully selected email based campaigns.

We might also consider lobbying with other groups to increase face time on the issues, and add another organization to the mix.

To increase collective action we need to increase our numbers, especially of members who feel empowered to inform, and advocate for ideas. We perhaps need to consider being proactive about issues and offering support even before it we are asked.

Recent brand new cuts to SUNY/CUNY prove that the more voices out there speaking out the better. I suggest that we begin with a letter to the Governor opposing his cuts of October 9, after promising in the last week in September that SUNY/CUNY cuts were off the table as well as visits to the state by Obama and Biden (locally) who told audiences about their administration's commitment to access to higher education specifically ways to pay for higher education. No matter if we are from a public or private institution cuts to our public system undermines all of us as well as the future of a viable New York State.

To offer advocacy even before is is asked for such as the Sally Dear case which I will discuss in my later Contingent Faculty report

One piece of news one of our keynotes from the spring Alan Lubin announced his retirement form NYSUT last month. In him we are losing a strong advocate for higher education issues with the clout to get even our present governor to listen from time to time. We will surely miss him.

Due to changes in election procedures we must amend our current bylaws. I suggest we seek an ad hoc committee to facilitate this as we cannot have another election until these are in place.

I would like us to apply for an ASC Per capita Grant for next year, but we need a legislative/lobbying arm that is active on the state level. Therefore, I seek feedback on this idea as well. Are we interested? How can we make this happen? What resources would we require?

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Jeneault

Contingent faculty Committee Report

With continuing SUNY/CUNY budget cuts, furloughs, differential raises, dismissals without cause, a stalled unemployment insurance bill in New York State, and healthcare reform that is also struggling, it has not been the best year for contingent faculty in New York State.

But there has been some good news too.

More contingent faculty across the state are voting to organize. The latest are Cooper Union and Manhattan School of Music. Many of us like our LeMoyne College and Marymount Manhattan are still in the process of negotiating first contracts, others like Syracuse and Pace are working through the aftermath of a successful contract campaign, but still face challenges in implementation.

There is the SUNY Binghamton case of Sally Dear who was summarily dismissed presumably due to whistle blowing regarding being pressured to change grades for basketball players to help them maintain eligibility. The new SUNY Chancellor has initiated an independent investigation, and Dear has been reinstated albeit to a different department.

According to a local NYS house representative the unemployment insurance bill was sent back to committee, but hopefully will make it back out this year.

I personally went to the local office of Congressperson Dan Maffei to bring up the plight of contingent faculty in regards to health care, making it clear that this group has been one of the most exploited in this regard and its impact on members of my local in particular.

We have a new group to help advocate for contingent faculty nationally. Their website is: <http://www.newfacultymajority.info/national/>

The new faculty majority is hoping to raise money to be able to offer advocacy assistance to those who report abuses. They list their main goals as:

Compensation: Equity in Compensation: Equal Pay for Equal Work

Job Security: Equity in Job Security: Automatic Contract Renewals after Probationary Period

Academic Freedom: Equity in Academic Freedom: Freedom from Retaliation in All Teaching and Research

Faculty Governance: Equity in Faculty Governance - Right to Participate Equally for All Faculty Members

Professional Advancement: Equity in Professional Advancement: Progressive Salary Steps and Equal Access to Professional Development Opportunities for All Faculty

Benefits: Equity in Benefits: Access to the Same Health Insurance & Retirement Benefits for All

Unemployment Insurance: Equity in Unemployment Insurance: Access to the Same Benefits as Other Employees between Jobs

They also have a legislative section in which they are presently advocating for a bill in Ohio that will allow contingent faculty to organize, and to help the passage of the New York State bill on unemployment compensation access for contingent faculty. At the present time the burden of proof is on the faculty member, and the bill will switch it to the institution to prove reasonable reassurance of employment. For example, contracts that contain language about contingency on enrollment will not prove reasonable reassurance. This will allow contingent faculty to more easily obtain these benefits.

Campus Equity week will be held this year between October 26 and November 5 (depending on which website you check.) We are still in the process of planning a local event.

One area that still needs work is protections for full-time contingent faculty, especially in private institutions.

We also need to continue to protect tenure, by increasing contingent faculty pay and benefits, making clear just clause protections via tenure-like distinctions (or even tenure) for all contingent faculty of long standing, including longer contracts. And access to the privileges of all faculty such as office space, computers, and research funds.

One final issue is evaluation: Evaluation of all faculty should be as similar as possible. To have a separate set of standards (often more rigid and arbitrary) for contingent faculty simply is unacceptable.

In general we must work together to create a stronger academy. We must strive to eliminate what divides us including elitism, divide and conquer administrative moves, and the remaining uninformed of what contingent faculty's lives are really like.

That concludes my report.
Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Jeneault