

Nebraska Professor

Published by the Nebraska State Conference of the American Association of University Professors

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New Distribution Format

You are receiving this issue of the Nebraska Professor, the Newsletter of the State Conference of the AAUP, electronically. This change in distribution is being undertaken in the expectation that it will be more efficient and will save the Conference the expense of printing and mailing.

Call for Nominations

The election of officers for the State Conference will be carried out this spring. Offices to be filled are those of Vice-President [who becomes President the following year]; Secretary and Treasurer. Additionally, two At Large Members will be elected to the Executive Committee. If you would like to stand for any of these offices or nominate someone, please contact your Chapter President.

Each Chapter must elect from its number two electors, who will vote for the Officers and the At-Large Members at the Conference Meeting in March.

Proposed Revisions to the Constitution

Attached is the proposed text of the revised Constitution, now called the By-Laws, of the State Conference AAUP. Please review this document in preparation for the State Conference Meeting on March 29.

2008 Spring Meeting

The Spring 2008 Meeting of the Nebraska State Conference of the AAUP will be held on March 29 on the campus of Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. The meeting will convene at 10:00 A.M., with the business meeting set to adjourn at 12:00 noon. This will be followed by lunch and the speaker. Lunch is being provided by the Conference.

A major agenda item for the business meeting will be proposed changes to the Constitution of the State Conference. The proposed revised Constitution, now called By-Laws, is attached. There will be presenters at the meeting to explain the specific changes being proposed. These revisions are being made principally to bring the State Conference into compliance with National's requirements and those of the Department of Labor.

The after-luncheon speaker at the meeting will be State Senator Amanda McGill, who represents the 26th legislative district in Lincoln. She will be discussing the potential effects to campuses in the state of the elimination of Affirmative Action in Nebraska, the purpose of a petition drive being proposed.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to attend, given the important nature of the discussion. There are significant issues coming at the national level that could have an impact on state conferences throughout the country.

THE BY-LAWS OF THE NEBRASKA STATE CONFERENCE,
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be "The Nebraska State Conference of the American Association of University Professors." In any legal context in which a constitution is specified as an organizational requirement, these by-laws shall be deemed sufficient.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the policies of, and membership in, the American Association of University Professors; to foster cooperation and facilitate the dissemination of information among Chapter officers and members; to assist wherever possible in the establishment of new local Chapters in the state; and to provide for a united and effective representation of the interests of the Nebraska AAUP membership in all matters affecting the academic profession in the state.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any member of the national AAUP within the state of Nebraska is automatically a member of the Nebraska State Conference.

Section 2. Classes of membership shall exist, conforming to those described in the Constitution of the national AAUP.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The election of officers shall be conducted in accordance with the standards of the national AAUP.

Section 2. The elected officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice-President, Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 3. The Vice-President, after holding that office for one term, shall become the President of this organization.

Section 4. Each officer shall hold office for two years. Each officer shall assume his/her duties on January 1 following election, and hold office until December 31 of the second year of term of office, or until a successor is elected.

Article V- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, two members elected at large, the president of each Chapter in the state, one member from each institution having two or more members of the national AAUP on its campus. The past-President of the Conference shall become member of the Executive Committee following his/her incumbency, and should the past-President for any reason be unable to serve, the past-Treasurer shall serve instead. Officers elected in the fall shall immediately become members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except for the representatives of institutions having no Chapter; such representatives shall have one half vote.

Section 3. The method by which each eligible unit within the state chooses its representative shall be reserved to the discretion of the local unit.

Section 4. A member of the Executive Committee shall be empowered to appoint from his/her local membership a proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead at such meetings as the regular member of the Committee may be unable to attend.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall meet as required.

Section 6. Should any office, except that of President, fall vacant between meetings, by reason of death, disability, resignation, or removal of an officer from Nebraska, or for any other reason, the unit represented by such officer shall select another member to maintain its full representation on the Executive Committee.

Section 7. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of a majority of the elected members of the Executive Committee.

Section 8. No part of the net earning of this organization shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to any director, employee or other individual, partnership, estate, trust or corporation having a personal or private interest in the chapter. Compensation for services actually rendered and reimbursement for expenses actually incurred in attending the affairs of the Chapter shall be limited to reasonable amounts.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Conference and of the Executive Committee. With the consent of the Executive Committee he/she shall appoint members to any new or special committees established by the Conference or the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence or disability.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall keep all financial records of the Conference and shall be responsible for the collection and expenditure of Conference funds. At the fall meeting of the Executive Committee, the Treasurer shall submit, for approval, a budget for the next year.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep all except the financial records of the Conference; prepare and distribute notices of all meetings of the Conference and of the Executive Committee to all parties concerned; prepare and distribute to the members lists of nominees and notices of proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws; assist the editor of the Conference newsletter; and perform such other duties as are assigned to him/her by the Executive Committee. With the advice and consent of a voting majority of the Executive Committee, the Secretary may delegate one or more of these duties to another Active member of the Association within the state.

Section 5. The Officers shall identify from among the membership a Newsletter Editor who shall prepare at least two issues of the Conference newsletter each year.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be at least one meeting of the Conference each year, the time and place of which shall be determined by the President with the consent of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The President shall convoke the Executive Committee for special and emergency, as well as regular, meetings.

Section 3. A quorum for the Conference meetings shall consist of a majority of those who have registered for that meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - POWERS OF THE CONFERENCE

This Conference is empowered to consider and act upon all professional matters of concern to members of the academic profession in the state. Any Chapter not in agreement with action of the Conference is entitled to the privilege of recording its dissenting opinion.

ARTICLE IX- DUES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. The annual dues shall be based on recommendations of the policies of the National Organization.

Section 2. The Executive Committee is empowered to set a registration fee to cover the expenses of the meeting of the Conference.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the State Conference by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the membership in the exact form in which it is to be presented, at least one month before the meeting.

ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Nebraska State Conference of the American Association of University Professors, any accrued funds in the treasury, after payment of all outstanding debts, shall revert to the national headquarters of the American Association of University Professors.