

# AAUP Executive Council 2009 Election of Officers

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## Candidates' Statements

### SECRETARY

#### **Ann Welsh, College of Business**

I am running for a position on the Executive Council because I believe that my recent experience on the UC Faculty Senate and as the immediate past Chair of the University Faculty have given me a window on university governance processes and pitfalls not shared by many. This experience has enabled me to appreciate the importance of the relationship between the Senate and the AAUP and to develop ideas on how each may more effectively reinforce the other. In particular I believe that the contract articles on faculty development and on governance must be strengthened if we are to maintain (let alone enhance!) the value of our human capital. I can contribute to crafting arguments to that effect.

As a Professor of Management, I am also acutely aware of the strategic importance of a vibrant and vital AAUP chapter to the university's fortunes. The University faces significant financial and political challenges – the AAUP can and should play a central role in developing solutions to overcome them. Membership matters. It is my hope that the continuing efforts of the AAUP to demonstrate its value more widely will help faculty who sit on the sidelines to reconsider their position. Finally, as a past critic of the AAUP I feel obligated to participate in its reconstituted self.

### TREASURER

#### **Richard Paul, College of Medicine**

Like you, my primary job description, teaching medical and grad students & running a research lab, would seem removed from AAUP activities. Part of the lure of academe for me is the perceived opportunity to play a major role in controlling my working environment, at least theoretically, through the AAUP principle of "shared governance". The last caveat is becoming more & more obvious as the corporate model of university takes hold. We are very fortunate to have the AAUP to represent us and backed up by Collective Bargaining in terms of the AAUP-University Contract. However, this privilege is accompanied by a duty to take an active role in creating and preserving that environment for ourselves & importantly, future generations.

I have served the AAUP in various capacities in my 32 years at UC, as an AAUP Board Member, serving & presiding over the Bargaining Council, Contract Health and Benefits Committee plus a couple of strikes & its related activities. These are tumultuous times, National and State economies tanking, we are facing major UC governance issues such as, college restructuring, bylaws, and semesters. In response, we see decisions being made often without, faculty input, the freezing of lines and more contingent faculty. These are not compatible with Faculty Excellence or UC21. Most recently I've been involved as an "At Large" member of the Executive Council. I have gained significant experience with current issues and would like to continue, especially through the next Contract in 2010. A strong AAUP not only protects Academic Freedom, but equally important, it is the guarantor through the Contract, of Shared Governance. I will continue to work to strengthen these principles as Treasurer.

# **AT- LARGE BOARD MEMBER**

## **Elise Cowie, College of Allied Health Sciences**

I have been the college representative to the Associates Council for the past few years (with a brief hiatus from May – December 2008). Prior to the 2007 contract negotiations I served as Chair of the Associates Council’s Appointments and Bargaining Unit Definitions subcommittee.

I have been nominated to run for the position of At-Large Member of the Executive Council. As one of the Executive Council’s three At-Large members, I would attend and participate in Executive Council meetings and also serve as a member of one standing or ad-hoc committee.

One of the duties of the Executive Council is to carry out the decisions of the membership as expressed at Chapter Membership Meetings. One of the topics on the agenda of the Associates Council this year has been “faculty excellence”. I would like to see the council continue its thrust for faculty excellence as I believe this will be beneficial for us as a chapter when we head into contract negotiations next spring.

As a non-tenured, twelve-month, clinical faculty member, I hope to be able to represent the views of other qualified title faculty who do not have the right to request a review for tenure. I also hope to influence more faculty to move from Fair Share members to voting members of our UC chapter.

# **CHAIR, ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

## **John McNay, Raymond Walters College**

I would like to continue as organizing chair because there are several ongoing projects that I would like to see completed. In particular, we need to continue our focus on faculty excellence and complete plans to keep that at the center of our efforts for the next negotiations.

I want to continue to work on membership growth. Thanks to the work of many devoted faculty members, we've had success in that area and I would like to help keep up our momentum.

During the restructuring, I also believe that it would be helpful to have some continuity on the AAUP council. I've been elected as a faculty senator to the restructuring subcommittee on Uptown/Regional Campuses and have served on several other college, department, and AAUP committees.

# **CHAIR, POLITICAL, SOCIAL & ACADEMIC FREEDOM ISSUES ACTION COMMITTEE**

## **James Westheider, Clermont College**

One of the first things I did when I started at UC was join the AAUP. Since then I have been heavily involved in union activities including serving as the AAUP Representative from Clermont College, and on the Bargaining Council, as Secretary on the Executive Council from August 2002 to March 2009, and have I served on the last two contract negotiating teams. I am running for chair of the PSAFIA committee because I am deeply committed to the principles for which the AAUP stands, especially academic freedom. There are many challenging and serious issues facing both the union and the faculty at UC including the rising cost of health care, erosion of tenure track positions, and fair and equitable pay raises. The AAUP must be active partners with the State and the University Administration but at the same time we must ensure that these plans do not erode faculty governance or undermine our academic freedom. We also need to be aware of the needs of all of our AAUP colleagues regardless on which campus they work. We have a lot of work ahead of us and I would like the opportunity to serve my fellow faculty members in a position in which I have past experience, and the desire. Accomplishing these goals will take a lot of hard work by many dedicated individuals and I am willing to do that work. Thank you.