



## Spring Awakening in Tennessee and in the Tennessee AAUP

April 7, 2018 the Tennessee State conference of the AAUP met at the University of Memphis Faculty Senate Chambers. This was the first meeting in West Tennessee for several years, but the state conference hopes to return in the near future. AAUP members from Lemoyne-Owen College, Lane College, Christian Brothers College, Tennessee Technological University, Nashville State Community College, University of Memphis, and even Arkansas were present. Special guests included Barbara Gray, President of the Tennessee Education Association, and Kate Schaffzin Faculty Representative of the Board of Trustees for University of Memphis.

Fall 2018 we hope to return to East Tennessee and meet at University of Tennessee, Knoxville, for which we received a Conference Development Grant from the National AAUP Assembly of State Conferences in 2017. We are planning on an exciting meeting with special speakers; stay tuned for more details.

At the Memphis meeting we discussed many issues of concern, such as the ongoing research investigation at TTU, the FOCUS act and the individual boards instituted at the , repercussions of the SAILS program (Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support), which targets students who have not achieved college readiness benchmarks by introducing the college developmental curriculum into the high school senior year, and its repercussions for college faculty who received such re-mediated students in their classrooms.

Tennessee AAUP members should soon be receiving notification of the election of Executive Committee members for the Tennessee conference. Several candidates for office have come forward; we are eager to find a secretary for the conference and would welcome an interested candidate. E-mail or phone one of the Board members if you are interested in serving the Tennessee Conference of the AAUP in this or another office. Also, there is a scholarship from the national Assembly of State Conferences available for 2 Tennessee AAUP members. — J. McQuail

**Sample Ballot** — Candidates (there will also be a write-in option for each slot)

The state conference of the AAUP Bylaws stipulate that the election be conducted by anonymous ballot. We will be setting up an online voting. We need a secretary!

**President**— **Troy D. Smith**, Tennessee Technological University — Troy Smith is an assistant professor of History at TTU and has recently been elected TTU Faculty Senate President.

**Vice President, 4 Year Public Universities** — **Máté Wierdl**, University of Memphis —Máté Wierdl is Professor of Math at U of M and has been active in the AAUP state conference.

**Vice President, 2 Year Colleges** — **Yvonne Simerman**, Nashville State Community College. Yvonne Simerman is Professor of Sociology at NSCC and has served as secretary of the TN Conference of the AAUP.

**Vice President, Private Universities** — **Delphia Harris**, LeMoyne-Owen College, is Professor of Chemistry at LeMoyne-Owen College. She has served in the past as President of the TN conference.

**Treasurer**: — **Dora Estes**, NSCC. Dora Estes is a professor of Accounting at NSCC. She has served one term as the state Conference of the AAUP already.

### 2018 Summer Institute — deadline for scholarship April 20

The AAUP Summer Institute will be held at the University of New Hampshire July 19 to July 22. Last year I attended the summer institute for the first time. I can honestly say that I learned more about academic freedom and shared governance over those four days than I had in my entire career before that. Every year, AAUP brings together hundreds of higher education professionals from around the country for workshops and special programs. Attendees can select from a huge variety of workshops. Last year, for example, these included topics ranging from "Reading and Using the Redbook" to "Faculty Support for Student Activism" and "Advocating for Academic Freedom in an Age of Contingency." Attendees have access to organizers, data analysts, seasoned campaigners, and issue experts to build skills as an advocate for AAUP principles, collective bargaining, and higher education.

Last year I was the only attendee from Tennessee. I learned so much that I'm thinking about going back this summer, and I'd love to see more colleagues from Tennessee there. Please consider it.  
— Pippa Holloway, MTSU

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## at TTU, UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

I certainly don't need to tell you that American universities are currently facing many challenges. You may list shared governance, privatization, corporatization, salary compression, or salary inequities as among the most significant challenges. Many boards consider issues of freedom of speech, efficiency, or enrollment. Often, proposed solutions to these concerns seem to pit faculty against administration, as parties fight over what appears to be an ever-dwindling zero-sum pot of money. It is important to remember that we are striving for the same end goal against the same limitations, although we may disagree with the path forward. It doesn't have to be "us vs. them."

So many of the challenges facing us today have a common political root. The good news is that all facets of a university can find common ground to work together to resolve political challenges. Faculties excel at political organization. Many Board members and administrators excel at lobbying. Universities are comprised of many individuals who can vote. Joining forces can propel universities forward. Recognition of our common challenges may foster collaboration that allows us to capitalize on each other's strengths.

It often seems as if these struggles are new – as if we are the first to confront them. But the issues currently facing universities are not new and we can take guidance from history. In 1966, the AAUP, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards recognized the importance of collaboration, communication, and trust. They spelled out the respective roles of governing boards, university presidents, and faculties in their joint Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities. They found a way to be respectful and civil in defining distinct roles for each in moving institutions of higher learning forward. The Joint Statement was a "call to mutual understanding regarding the government of colleges and universities."

In it, the organizations explained that, "Understanding, based on community of interest and producing joint effort, is essential[.]" They recognized over fifty years ago that "the academic institution, public or private, often has become less autonomous; buildings, research, and student tuition are supported by funds over which the college or university exercises a



diminishing control. Legislative and executive governmental authorities, at all levels, play a part in the making of important decisions in academic policy." To address this common political challenge, the Joint Statement explained that, "the academic institution must be in a position to meet them with its own generally unified view." The Joint Statement finally recognized that "a college or university in which all the components are aware of their interdependence, of the usefulness of communication among themselves, and of the force of joint action will enjoy increased capacity to solve educational problems." That was true in 1966 and a useful perspective today.

I thank you for your commitment to bettering your institutions, serving your students, and standing up for your communities. I wish you the best of luck in pursuit of those interests today. — (excerpts from the Welcome given to the Tennessee Conference of the American Association of University Professors meeting attendees by **Kate Schaffzin**, Faculty Representative on the Governing Board of Directors, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Professor of Law; Director of Faculty Development, University of Memphis

AAUP convention in Washington, D.C. July 13-16

Are you curious about what happens at the annual national AAUP convention? Are you willing to serve as a delegate at the convention? Consider serving as a delegate at the national AAUP convention. You can participate in Lobby day, attend panels (state conference leader Dr. Josie McQuail organized a regional panel on free speech), and serve your AAUP!

The state conference will help with a portion of the expenses, and there are also scholarships from national AAUP for attending AAUP conferences. For instance you may be eligible for the Mary Burgan fund. Contact TN conference president Josie McQuail at [jmcquail@tntech.edu](mailto:jmcquail@tntech.edu) for more info.

## Coley's Corner: News from the Legislature, 2017-18

While we didn't come close to getting everything we wanted, some potentially bad proposals have not moved forward.

With respect to planning for the coming year, I'd say the focus of organizing and building alliances is an excellent theme for the meeting. But we also need to ask, "organizing for what end?" There has been a lot of attention paid to the various FOCUS Acts over the last few years. While I can't disagree with much that has been said about concerns over the composition of various boards, I can assure everyone that neither the next Governor nor the next GA is going to have any appetite for revisiting this issue in any comprehensive way. Tweaks, maybe. Getting voting student and faculty representation failed this time but might have a chance down the road if handled correctly. The camel's nose is under the tent in the bill requiring universities to accept classes in signing for the deaf as satisfying foreign language requirements. Other efforts at influencing curriculum decisions were stopped, but this will be an ongoing battle.

I've been watching with great interest the public school teachers in some deeply red states having surprising success with their walkouts. I think that is largely because, in addition to demands for higher salaries and benefits (in which they are including staff as well as themselves), they have also focused on classroom conditions resulting from severe cuts in spending. In other words, they are appealing to parents who can see real consequences of these actions. K-12 teachers are in a much better position to do this than we are, but there are lessons to be learned. Most importantly, I think, questions being raised about our graduates having few job opportunities and large debts are legitimate. We can't just resist for the sake of resistance efforts to cooperate with businesses to help make our students ready for the high paying jobs that are going unfilled because of the lack of qualified applicants. (TSU has had a very productive relationship with IBM for a decade that has resulted in many of its graduates in business or computer science being hired by major tech companies.)

None of this means we have to adopt the Koch Brothers' agenda of turning out robots for minimum wage jobs. And the TTU experience has shown the very large potential for abuse in accepting research grants from those with a major stake in the outcome of the research. But we need to persuade folks that we have the best interests of our students at heart, that our primary agenda is to support and prepare them for the new world. We can't abandon our goal of producing "educated citizens," but the reality today is that earning a decent wage is much more of a concern to a vast majority of our students and their parents. We can do both. Our best chance to have key folks willing to listen will come only from developing a relationship with our own legislators and suggest to our students that they do the same.

— Coley McGinnis, TSU, Emeritus Professor, is past president and Legislative Liaison for the **TN Conference**

### Tennessee AAUP Foundation

The Tennessee AAUP Foundation was founded by TN Conference members who wished to help other TN AAUP members who might need "seed" money for legal aid, engaging speakers on issues, etc. The TN Conference has revived the Tennessee Foundation, which is a separate entity from the Tennessee conference of the AAUP. AAUP members willing to serve on the Board of the Foundation are sought. So far Dora Estes, Davis Lee, Delphia Harris, and Josie McQuail are serving on the Board of the TN AAUP Foundation. Donations may be made to the Foundation c/o **Dora Estes, Treasurer of the TN AAUP Foundation, 303 Ponder Rd. Smithville, TN 37166**



THE TENNESSEE CONFERENCE  
Academic Freedom for a Free Society in Tennessee

**AAUP ANNUAL CONFERENCE June 14-17, Crystal City VA**  
**2018 AAUP Annual Conference: Free Speech on Campus—**  
please consider attending the national AAUP convention as a delegate and getting more involved in AAUP. Also, you can help by recruiting your colleagues. In today's climate, it is even more vital for our state's and our nation's higher education faculty to work together to protect the quality of higher education and the rights of higher education faculty. The theme of the conference is Free Speech.

**YOUR TENNESSEE CONFERENCE OFFICERS :** (until the next election, which is pending)

**President: Josie McQuail**, TTU [jmcquail@tnitech.edu](mailto:jmcquail@tnitech.edu)  
**Vice President for Four Year Universities: Julia Gruber**, TTU  
[juliagruber@tnitech.edu](mailto:juliagruber@tnitech.edu)  
**Vice President for Private Universities: vacant**  
**Vice President for Community Colleges: vacant**  
**Secretary: Yvonne Simerman**, NSCC, [<yvonne112562@att.net>](mailto:yvonne112562@att.net)  
**Treasurer: Dora Estes**, NSCC [dorasts6@gmail.com](mailto:dorasts6@gmail.com)  
**Past President; Legislative Liaison: Coley McGinnis**, Emeritus, Tennessee State U, [coleymac@comcast.net](mailto:coleymac@comcast.net)

**THE AAUP believes that higher education is a fundamental human right to which freedom of inquiry and expression are integral.**

Dr, Josephine A. McQuail  
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## JOIN AAUP

Your AAUP membership gives you exclusive access to the expertise of AAUP staff, members, and leaders. Our lineup of guidebooks, toolkits, and webinars put the resources to defend academic freedom, ensure economic security, and advance faculty governance for all faculty at your fingertips.

When you join the AAUP, make sure you sign up to pay dues to your state conference — we do a lot for you! Our legislative Liaison Coley McGinnis has made a difference for us this year by his lobbying (see p. 3). <http://www.aaup.org/membership/join>

Many professional development opportunities are available to AAUP members, and through AAUP you can help keep guard the quality of higher ed in TN and protect faculty rights.

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