

**Minnesota Conference of the AAUP
Annual Report; 2018-19 Academic Year
Delivered to the Executive Committee by David Schmit, Conference President, June 15,
2019**

1.MN Conference Membership Numbers: As of June 2019: 218 members spread across 16 Minnesota institutions (and a number of at-large faculty)

(Comparative annual conference membership numbers: March 2016: 200; Feb 2017 218; June 2018: 220 members)

2. Chapters: 6 active chapters (followed by # members): Augsburg (12); Hamline (51); St. Johns/Bens (16); St. Catherine (15); Macalester (16), U of M (70)

Semi-active: University of St. Thomas (8)

May 2019: Macalester Chapter reformed

U of M Twin Cities: AAUP Chapter & Academics United conjoined in various ways.

3. Outreach: Website and Facebook page; email notices from Executive Committee to conference regarding elections; referrals from faculty members & attorneys; press communications regarding MN-AAUP actions on behalf of faculty.

4. Meetings: The Executive Committee met 7 times (From Oct 2018-June 2019)

5. Letters & Institutional Actions: The Executive Committee undertook six advocacy actions.

A. For a tenured faculty member at a private university: Academic freedom & due process case regarding classroom conflict that escalated into institutional conflict resulting in denial of teaching privileges. The Executive Committee submitted a letter to the university leadership, consulted with faculty member & advocated within the institution for AAUP principles. National office also submitted a letter. The issue was settled.

B. For a group of faculty, both tenured and non-tenured at a private university in conflict with their department leadership. Issues involved faculty charging that they were being denied the opportunity to take part in department leadership functions and curriculum setting. The Exec. Comm. submitted a letter to the university leadership and faculty grievance committee underscoring AAUP principles of shared governance and faculty role in curriculum and department leadership & provided consultation on several occasions. Ongoing.

C. For a tenured faculty member at a private university. Due process case regarding honorific chair and determination of course load. Faculty member claimed the administration was unfairly altering course load in violation of standing policy. The Exec. Comm. submitted a letter to the university leadership and a follow-up letter and provided consultation for the faculty member.

D. For a tenure-track faculty member at a private university. The issue was lack of due process in a promotion review that led to denial of promotion coupled with a disability rights issue. The Exec. Comm. submitted a letter to the university leadership. University leadership reported back that they conducted an investigation and rejected faculty member's complaint

E. For a tenured faculty member at a local college threatened with severe sanctions by the administration over a classroom conflict case. The Exec. Comm. consulted with the faculty member and members of the college AAUP chapter and submitted a letter to the college leadership addressing due process concerns. Several consultations between Exec. Comm. members and faculty member were conducted and consultations with the national office of the AAUP. Ongoing.

6. Recruitment for Exec. Comm Email

Feb 2019: We sent an email soliciting help from senior MN- AAUP conference members for help recruiting people to run for Executive Committee positions.

7. Election for 2019-20

Successful election; all positions filled. 63 voted; 31% of the conference. (Up from 37 in the 2017 election).

8. Expenses

Since the Exec. Comm. did not run a forum this year, our overall expenses were reduced.

Legal defense fund:

Two requests made. One award of \$1000 and one award of \$400 to faculty with legal bills were granted.

Drafted language for by-laws regarding process of determining legal defense awards.

Membership Fund: One new member; \$128.50 (50% remitted)

Redbook purchases: 5 @ \$174

Sloan Award: \$550 (\$500 to awardee, Professor Robert Cowgill ; \$50 for plaque)