

# NEWS

## Faculty discussed concerns at AAUP Forum; Bargaining Team & Bargaining Council announced

More than 80 faculty members attended the AAUP Bargaining Issues Forum on Feb. 3.

“At the Forum, faculty engaged in lively discussions about many topics of concern,” said AAUP Chapter President Pam Ecker.

“Chapter officers are reviewing the notes from the Forum,” Pam said “Next, we’ll be sending a detailed survey to all bargaining unit members,” Pam said.

“We want to ensure that all of the faculty in the AAUP bargaining units have opportunities to share their thoughts and concerns as we prepare for negotiations,” Pam added.

“In addition to the Forum and the survey, we will be seeking input through committee meetings and by outreach to those with shared concerns.”

The contracts for AAUP bargaining units 1 and 2 expire on Aug. 23, 2020.

“We have been preparing for negotiations throughout Fall semester,” Pam said.

“Also, in early January before classes started, officers and other

Chapter leaders took part in a full-day training session led by Mike Mauer, a negotiations expert and consultant to the National AAUP.”

At the Feb. 3 Forum, the leaders of the AAUP Bargaining Council and the members of the Bargaining Team were introduced.

Bargaining Team members for 2020 contract negotiations are:

- Greg Klein, Chief
- Jason Caudill
- Betsy LaSorella
- Julie McLaughlin
- Abbey Yee

“This team brings a strong blend of experience and perspectives to the bargaining table,” Pam said.

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## New AAUP At-Large officer to be elected

Starting this month, AAUP will call for nominations and conduct an election for a new At-Large member of the Chapter Executive Committee.

Chapter President Pam Ecker said, “The Chapter Constitution calls for election of an additional At-Large officer when the position of Past President is vacant.”

“Since Paul Davis retired, we have no active Chapter member in the past president role,” Pam said.

“Paul is continuing to pay dues as a Retired Member, but is no longer eligible to be an elected officer.”

Pam said the role of the At-Large member is to represent concerns of all members at meetings of the AAUP Executive Committee.

“Since it’s a bargaining year, the newly-elected officer will help determine the priorities that our Bargaining Team will take to the table,” Pam said.

The new At-Large officer’s term will end Oct. 31, 2020. The officer can be re-elected to another term if the Past President position stays vacant.

Chapter members will receive more information by email about the nomination process for the new At-Large officer.

## Bargaining planning / continued from 1

Several team members have served on past bargaining teams for Unit 1 and Unit 2 contracts, and all have participated in the intensive training offered at the National AAUP Summer Institute.

The Bargaining Council for 2020 has three chairs:

- Marianne Niese
- Tracey Stivers
- Mark Tiemeier

The Bargaining Council Chairs are responsible for facilitating bargaining committee activities and ensuring that member concerns related to bargaining are shared with Chapter officers.

Faculty members in the bargaining units are encouraged to volunteer for committees that include:

- Compensation (Paul Weingartner, Chair)
- Health Benefits (Alyce Thompson, Chair)

- Diversity/Equity Concerns (Daniel Anderson, Chair)
- Communications/Outreach (Peggy Rolfsen, Chair)

In addition, the Bargaining Council is seeking volunteers to serve as “Data Detectives” who will help locate information that can’t be found simply through a Google search.

Anyone with questions or interest in volunteering for a committee should contact Pam, or any of the Bargaining Council Chairs.

“Our negotiating team is eager to get to work on behalf of the entire faculty; however, it’s important to be thoroughly prepared before we send the team to the table,” Pam said

“The team needs everyone’s help and support, as committee members or in other volunteer roles.”

## Help needed for Chapter non-bargaining tasks

AAUP Chapter members who want to take on short-term or long-term tasks that assist the Chapter can consider these volunteer opportunities:

- Help select recipients of the AAUP Scholarships - contact Scholarship Chair Ann Fallon
- Serve as Chapter Hospitality Chair (occasional outreach to members regarding personal milestones/achievements) - contact Pam Ecker
- Help with Chapter social media outreach - contact Peggy Rolfsen or Pam Ecker
- Help plan the Chapter’s 30th anniversary party and other social activities - contact Pam Ecker

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