

FALL 2022 FACULTY MEETING

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY  
PROFESSORS (AAUP)

Auburn University Chapter



# WHAT WE DO (MISSION)

The mission of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is to advance academic freedom and shared governance; to define fundamental professional values and standards for higher education; to promote the economic security of faculty, academic professionals, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and all those engaged in teaching and research in higher education; to help the higher education community organize to make our goals a reality; and to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good.



# CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

- Our executive committee meets twice per semester with the upper administration to advocate for faculty concerns related to our core principles.
- Hold regular chapter meetings to discuss concerns with the membership, vote on business matters.
- Host guest speakers to speak on topical matters.
- Issue public statements related to core principles.
- Advocate for the rights of individual faculty members through Committee A.



# CURRENT AND RECENT ISSUES

- Use and interpretation of the Faculty Handbook, particularly the interface between handbook policies pertaining to faculty members and HR policies and procedures.
- New social media screening policy.
- Advocacy for COLA and merit increases in the wake of high inflation.
- Continued advocacy for the rights of individual faculty members through Committee A, including due process concerns.

## **AAUP SUPPORTS ACADEMIC FREEDOM:**

The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom . . . is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student in learning.

## **AAUP SUPPORTS SHARED GOVERNANCE:**

The variety and complexity of the tasks performed by institutions of higher education produce an inescapable interdependence among governing board, administration, faculty, students, and others. The relationship calls for adequate communication among these components, and full opportunity for appropriate joint planning and effort. . . . Effective planning demands that the broadest possible exchange of information and opinion should be the rule for communication among the components of a college or university.

# CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Matthew Hoch

Professor

Music

President-Elect

Luke Oeding

Associate Professor

Mathematics

Treasurer- Secretary

Tracy Witte

Professor

Psychological  
Sciences

Immediate Past President

Mitchell Brown

Professor

Political Science

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Term: 2020–2022

Jim Witte

Professor

Aviation

Term: 2020–2022

Richard Seseck

Associate Professor

Industrial and  
Systems Engineer

Term: 2021–2023

Beth Davis-Sramek

Professor

Supply Chain  
Management

Term: 2021–2023

Merrilee Holland

Associate Professor

Radiology Service

Term: 2021–2023

David King

Professor

Geological  
Science



# COMMITTEE A

Comprises three tenured full professors, Committee A advocates for faculty who believe their rights to academic freedom and due process have been infringed upon. Committee A receives complaints of departures from these core AAUP principles and, where appropriate, undertakes formal investigations. Such investigations may lead to a recommendation from the committee to the university administration, up to and including the president of the university.

# HOWZE ACADEMIC FREEDOM AWARD

The Glenn Howze Academic Freedom Award is presented annually to a person who has demonstrated high ethical standards and professionalism in his or her field of specialization and has also made significant contributions to advocating, protecting and extending academic freedom at the university.



# HOW TO JOIN AAUP

Any college or university faculty member, whether full or part time, as well as any graduate student with teaching responsibilities is welcome to join the AAUP. Membership in the Auburn University chapter occurs when one joins AAUP at the national level:

<https://www.aaup.org/membership>

Rates are tiered based on annual salary.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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[aaupinf@auburn.edu](mailto:aaupinf@auburn.edu)



# QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION