

Faculty Welfare Committee

Excellence in Education



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From the Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP President:

My warmest welcome to everyone, especially the new faculty joining us this fall—I hope this is the start of a long, rewarding and enjoyable career at Fairfield.

I'd like to take a minute to talk about who we are and what we do. Briefly, the national AAUP's purpose is to advance academic freedom and shared governance, to define fundamental professional values and standards for higher education, and to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good. Our local AAUP chapter, the FWC/AAUP, is committed to these same principles, working at Fairfield to protect and promote academic freedom and freedom of expression, academic tenure, the professional and economic status of the faculty, and genuine shared governance.

For over 20 years the FWC/AAUP has played a central role in maintaining and promoting these sound academic principles and practices, and the growth and strength of our chapter has had a substantial positive impact on our institution. Though our training in our disciplines labels us as economists, physicists, historians, writers, etc., we are first and foremost university professors. The strength of any university is grounded in the strength of its faculty, and the strength of the faculty is grounded in its ability to articulate and promote fundamental academic principles. The FWC/AAUP has provided and continues to provide Fairfield's faculty with a strong and effective voice with which to articulate, maintain and promote those academic principles and practices that are at the core of our profession.

Rick DeWitt
President
Fairfield University FWC/AAUP



FWC AND AAUP NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING FWC, AAUP AND OTHER FACULTY EVENTS:

FWC Brown Bag Lunch: Got Freedom of Expression?

**OCTOBER 13
NOON TO 1:00
FACULTY DINING ROOM**

According to several recent court decisions, faculty may actually have less freedom to express themselves than their fellow citizens. This is extremely problematic since one could argue that faculty need robust freedom in their work in order to challenge students and to explore and challenge the frontiers of knowledge. Join us to learn about the 2006 Supreme Court decision ruling that public employees are not protected by the First Amendment when speaking as part of their "official duties" and learn how this ruling has been (mis)applied to faculty. Bring or buy your lunch. The FWC/AAUP will provide ice cream.

FWC General Membership Meeting AFTER THE GF MEETING OCTOBER 1 DSB 110AB

We will kick off the academic year with a very brief FWC/AAUP meeting immediately following the General Faculty meeting on 10/1 and preceding the FWC gala reception. More info will be sent by email.



AAUP Shared Governance Conference and Workshops NOVEMBER 12-14 LIAISON CAPITOL HILL HOTEL, DC

Three days of presentations and expert-led training workshops on all aspects of college and university governance. Find out all the details at:
www.aaup.org/AAUP/about/events/govconf

FWC Brown Bag Lunch: Trends in College Spending NOVEMBER TBA

Where does the money come from? Where does it go? What does it buy? Join us for a discussion of a recently released 10 year nationwide study addressing these questions and more. For years, tuition nationwide, especially in private institutions, has been increasing substantially over the cost of living, and this study addressed key questions such as where does that money go? (Spoiler Alert: Not much of the increase is going to academics.) Join us for a lively and informative discussion. Ice cream will be provided by the FWC/AAUP.



IDEAS? Is there a topic that you would like to be informed about? We are always open to ideas from our members. Contact any member of the FWC Executive Committee (listed on page 6).



CSC Annual Meeting & Presentation of the George E. Lang, Jr. Award



FWC President Kathy Nantz presents Matt Kubasik with the CT State Conference George E. Lang, Jr. Award



Fairfield was well-represented at the CSC annual meeting:
(From left to right) Janet Sherwood, Lisa Newton, Matt Kubasik,
Joe Dennin, Nancy Dennin, Mary-Beth Lang, Susan Rakowitz,
Rona Preli, Rick DeWitt.

The CT State Conference-AAUP annual spring meeting was held on May 6 at the Graduate Club in New Haven. This year's topic, "*The Kitchen Table in the Ivory Tower: The Personal and Professional Impact of Economic Hard Times*" was addressed by panelists Dan Livingston, labor attorney and progressive activist and Jenn Nichols, senior program officer in the AAUP Department of Organizing and Services. The program was moderated by Dave Walsh, President CT State University-AAUP and long-time AAUP activist.

Of special interest to Fairfield's faculty was the presentation of the CSC George E. Lang, Jr. Award to Fairfield Professor Matt Kubasik. The George Lang award was established in 2007 by the CSC-AAUP to honor the memory of our colleague, George Lang. The award recognizes a faculty member at Fairfield who early in his or her career has shown awareness of and dedication to AAUP principles such as academic freedom and faculty governance.

Matt Kubasik was the unanimous choice of the FWC Executive Committee (that has the distinct pleasure of selecting the recipient). In addition to a deep understanding of the importance of faculty governance, Matt was cited for his good work on the Salary Committee, bringing the concerns of new faculty members to the table and making progress on addressing those concerns.

FWC wins Outstanding Chapter Newsletter for the second year in a row



Left to right: AAUP President Cary Nelson, FWC/AAUP Newsletter Editor Irene Mulvey, Newsletter Award Committee Chair Candace Kant, AAUP General Secretary Gary Rhoades.

The Assembly of State Conferences (ASC), an umbrella organization for all of the AAUP State Conferences, present an award each June at the AAUP annual meeting to an individual chapter with an outstanding newsletter. The award recognizes outstanding achievement by a chapter in promoting organizational communication and visibility. The winner is chosen by a panel of three judges and the winning chapter receives a check for \$100 in addition to the glory of the award. **For the second year in a row, Fairfield was awarded the ASC Outstanding Chapter Newsletter Award!** Prof. Mulvey who has edited or co-edited the newsletter for over three years attended the annual meeting and accepted the award on behalf of the FWC.



Annual Faculty Picnic and Softball Game

We had spectacular weather and record attendance at the Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP annual faculty family picnic and softball game - the only event open to all faculty, faculty families and faculty friends. We welcomed a wonderful group of new colleagues and checked in with not-so-new colleagues and friends to kick off another academic year.

There were a lot of great moments, but probably the most thrilling highlight was the fact that an actual super-hero was in attendance this year (see photo this page). At some point, he assumed his secret identity and melted into the crowd, but most of us did feel quite a bit safer knowing that he was somewhere in our midst.

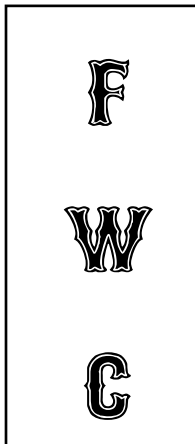
The usual lawn games and crafts were enjoyed by many. Dennis Keenan did manage to walk on stilts after his stilt-walking abilities were called into question by some members of the younger set. Kraig Steffen brought and carefully assembled an elaborate game for the kids and the kids proceeded to disassemble said game - with gusto. No takers for the unicycle again this year.

Many thanks to Bill Abbott for this report from the softball game: The softball game featured the usual array of spectacular plays and surprising results. A total of twenty-one players took to the field, with representatives from many different departments and many different age groups. Team One featured Don (Fastball) Greenberg (Politics) on the mound and Bill Abbott (History), Mark Demers (Mathematics) and Sherry Salafia (C&NS) among others. Team Two featured David Sapp (English) starting on the mound with Curt (trash talkin') Naser (Philosophy) appearing in relief. They were joined by Kraig Steffen (Chemistry), David McFadden (History), Manyul Im (Philosophy) with his slugger son, among others.

Team One blew the game open with eight runs in the first inning, after which solid defense took over for both teams. (Continued next page)

AAUP





There were two home runs for Team One, the first a three-run blast in the second inning. The later innings featured outstanding infield play, with Dave McFadden, Mark Demers, and Amy Boczer each spearing hard line drives. Manyul Im was unfortunately plunked twice, once by a thrown ball, the other by a hard line drive, but he emerged uninjured. Spouses and other family members were welcomed with Mark Bonasera, husband of Marice Rose (VPA), ably manning first base for Team Two. The game ended with plenty of sportsmanship and conviviality all around. Most importantly, when the softball players finally made it over to the picnic area, there was still plenty of fried chicken and beer.



The FWC/AAUP Executive Committee worked hard to put on the picnic for the faculty. Thanks to out-going FWC President Kathy Nantz for the craft supplies and the great notes on how to run the picnic. Thanks to FWC President Rick DeWitt for taking on a lion's share of the tasks and delegating the other tasks so efficiently. Thanks to Jocelyn Boryczka for picking up the fried chicken and thanks to Kate Wheeler for making the Costco run! Special thanks to David (Let me explain the infield fly rule) Sapp for organizing the softball game, reserving the field, bringing all the equipment and generally making the game run smoothly (injury-free!) so that everyone was safe, pun intended, and had fun. We are already looking forward to next year.



The FWC is always looking to get more people involved in our activities in small and large ways. Want to work with some fun people on issues important to faculty? Contact any member of the Executive Committee whose membership is listed on page 6.





**The Mission of the
AAUP:**

*to advance academic
freedom and shared
governance, to define
fundamental professional
values and standards for
higher education, and to
ensure higher education's
contribution to the
common good.*



One of the most remarkable things about Fairfield faculty is their willingness to pitch in and do what needs to be done for the University and for the faculty. So many people pitched in to help after the picnic that clean up was taken care of in no time. People volunteered to take home the few leftovers that remained. In fact, when the dust had cleared, all that was left was one opened bottle of white wine, which would not keep until our next reception. As usual, FWC members stepped up to the plate to do what needed to be done. **THANK YOU** Professors Dina Franceschi (left) and Terry Ann Jones (right) for your willingness to take one for the team and deal with our last remaining leftover. Here's to a great semester! Cheers!

Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP Executive Committee: Rick DeWitt (President), Joe Dennin (Vice-President), Bill Abbott (Secretary), Rona Preli (Treasurer), at-large members Jocelyn Boryczka, Susan Rakowitz, Deb Strauss, Kate Wheeler. Newsletter Editor: Irene Mulvey. Membership Director: Cheryl Tromley.

Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP

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