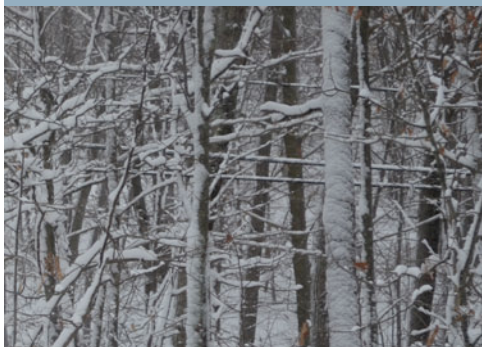


# Faculty Welfare Committee

## Excellence in Education

*Awarded the AAUP Assembly of State Conferences Outstanding Newsletter Award 2009*  
*Awarded the AAUP Assembly of State Conferences Outstanding Newsletter Award 2008*



### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

Page 1

✓From the President

Page 2

✓Environmental Sustainability at  
Fairfield

Page 3

✓News from Boston College AAUP:  
A remarkable inaugural year

Page 4

✓FWC/AAUP Events  
✓Save the Dates



### **From the Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP President:**

Dear Colleagues,

As illustrated by the article on our fellow faculty at Boston College (see article on page 3), many faculty at other institutions do not enjoy the same system of shared governance we do, modeled on the joint AAUP/ACE/AGB statement laying out the most widely accepted structure for what constitutes genuine shared governance. (A link to this statement can be found on our website at [www.faculty.fairfield.edu/rdewitt/FWC/Publications.html](http://www.faculty.fairfield.edu/rdewitt/FWC/Publications.html).)

As President of the chapter, I hear regularly from faculty at other institutions asking for suggestions and advice on how they can help move their institution closer to what we have. This is a testament to how widely respected our chapter and our institution are, and a testament to the hard work of our predecessors and those currently at Fairfield, both faculty and administration alike, in establishing and maintaining a system of governance that is well suited for promoting the sound academic principles and policies needed to carry out our mission.

I want to express my appreciation to all of you for your long and continued support of the FWC/AAUP at Fairfield. It is exactly this support that makes it possible for us not only to maintain what we have, but to consider ways to improve on it. One recent example of a proposed improvement is the current proposal to establish a Faculty Committee on Sustainability (see article on page 2). This proposal has evolved over the months based on input from both faculty and administration, and the Academic Council recently voted to recommend the General Faculty approve the formation of this committee. The General Faculty will be voting on this at an upcoming meeting, and I urge faculty to consider the merits of this proposal.

I hope the remainder of your semester goes well. With our mailboxes finally peeking above the snow, spring cannot be too far off.

Rick DeWitt  
President, Fairfield University FWC/AAUP

## Environmental Sustainability at Fairfield



Biology major Evan Apanovitch '11 and Professor Brian Walker check one of Walker's bird feeders outside Bannow

Moving towards environmental sustainability is one of the great challenges of our time. Institutions of higher learning are at the forefront of this movement. This commitment is consistent with Fairfield University's mission, reiterated by President von Arx, S.J., in a blog post last year, "As a Jesuit University, we have a particular responsibility to be good stewards of the earth, because this is a specific charge put before us by the Society of Jesus."<sup>1</sup> This commitment is also supported by statements from the Vatican. Pope Benedict XVI has stated "...we can't simply do whatever we want with this Earth that has been entrusted to us, what seems to us at a given moment useful or promising."<sup>2</sup>

Over the past few years, the University has worked to reduce its impact on the environment by increasing activities related to sustainability. In October 2008, President von Arx convened a Campus Sustainability Committee (CSC) made up of staff, faculty members, and students. This administrative committee was successful in bringing attention to ongoing sustainability initiatives including waste reduction (e.g., reducing food waste, increasing recycling) and energy conservation (e.g., construction of the cogeneration plant, new building standards). However, the CSC, as originally convened, did not function in a way that fully involved faculty members in important decisions related to academics, teaching, and research. One recent decision which lacked faculty input was the construction in Spring 2010 of a parking lot on what was the largest intact forest area on campus. This area was an academic resource that had been used for both classroom teaching and faculty/student research, yet substantial portions of this resource were destroyed without proper consideration of the impact on teaching and research.

Following the failure to solicit faculty input on the parking lot expansion, it became clear that further institutional changes are needed. In particular, changes are needed to ensure that faculty are able to carry out the duties delegated to them by the Board of Trustees in formulating and reviewing policies related to the environment that pertain to the academic life of the university. Changes proposed to enhance representation of faculty stakeholders include a revision of the charge to the CSC and a proposal to form a new *Faculty Handbook* committee on sustainability.

Over the past year, faculty members and senior administrators have worked to revise the charge and specific duties of the CSC. This work was completed in October of 2010. The CSC is now charged with helping set the University's goals and evaluating its progress with regard to sustainability as well as facilitating interdepartmental collaboration by acting as a clearinghouse for all sustainability activities on campus. We hope that the revision will lead to a stronger and more meaningful role for the CSC, and we acknowledge the work of all parties and the collegial and collaborative resolution reached with the administration.

We believe a complementary *Faculty Handbook* committee is necessary to assess and make recommendations on campus plans and policies related to the environment as they impact curricular and co-curricular development, faculty research, and other academic matters. The creation of a Faculty Committee on Sustainability will ensure that faculty members have a place within our formal governance structure to voice academic concerns related to sustainability. The Faculty Committee on Sustainability will also serve to elect faculty representatives from the Faculty Committee on Sustainability to serve on the Campus Sustainability Committee and serve as liaisons between the bodies.

On February 7, the Academic Council passed a motion which, if passed by the General Faculty and approved by the Board of Trustees, would create the Faculty Committee on Sustainability. This *Handbook* amendment is on the agenda for the March 4 General Faculty Meeting. Watch your inbox for more information related to this proposed amendment. If you have questions, feel free to contact a member of the Academic Council subcommittee on issues related to sustainability (listed below).

**Written by:** Jen Klug (*AC Subcommittee on Sustainability, Chair*), Jim Biardi, Jocelyn Boryczka, Dina Franceschi, Tod Osier, and Brian Walker.

<sup>1</sup>Jeffrey von Arx, S.J., "The President's View," *Connecticut Post Blog*. Connecticut Post. 3 March 2010. Web. Accessed 3 March, 2010.

<sup>2</sup>Pope Benedict XVI. From a conversation with priests from the northern Italian dioceses on 24 July, 2007.

## News from Boston College AAUP: A remarkable inaugural year

Roughly thirteen months ago, faculty members at our fellow Jesuit institution, Boston College, formed an AAUP chapter (BCAAUP). In the space of just over a year, the BCAAUP chapter has made remarkable progress in some areas and remains somewhat frustrated in others. Members of BCAAUP have connected with faculty leaders in Fairfield's chapter, FWC/AAUP, to mutual advantage, and we have been privileged to discuss their concerns with them and provide input and advice. Despite both being Jesuit institutions, the governance structures at Fairfield and BC are not at all similar. In particular, at this time, BC does not have a faculty senate, which illustrates the lack of faculty governance at BC - a long-standing concern for the majority of BC faculty. As in any academic saga, there are conflicting narratives on what has happened and where things stand now. Faculty created an Interim Faculty Senate, which worked for several years and attempted to put a permanent Faculty Senate in place. Faculty maintain that the administration blocked the permanent formation of a faculty senate by not allowing a scheduled election to take place. The administration maintains that, rather than blocking the proposal for a faculty senate, it simply asked that the proposal first be taken to the Board of Trustees for consideration; it initially offered to facilitate such a meeting but that has not yet occurred. It remains the administration's position that Board of Trustees must approve a proposal for a Senate.

The AAUP's *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*, which was jointly formulated by the AAUP, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards, and by 1967, was officially recognized and commended to the member institutions of all

three organizations, articulates the principles behind joint governance, including the interdependence of the governing board, faculty, administration, and others. With regard to faculty participation in governance, the statement calls for the establishment of agencies for faculty participation in the governance of the institution "at each level where faculty responsibility is present," and that "an agency should exist for the presentation of the views of the whole faculty," and that "faculty representatives should be selected by the faculty according to procedures determined by the faculty," suggesting various options for these agencies including a faculty-elected senate or council. While the statement calls for structures and procedures for faculty participation to be designed, approved, and established by joint action of the components of the institution, the scenario proposed by BC's administration giving the Board essential veto power runs counter to the collaborative decision-making process that is the hallmark of ideal institutional joint governance. We regret that moving forward on a faculty senate at BC was delayed due to the scheduled election's not taking place. We are supportive of our BC colleagues who remain committed to sponsorship of an election for a faculty senate at some point in the future. We support our

colleagues at BCAAUP and agree with their assessment that their obligation at this time is to represent all of the concerns of all of their members and the faculty with balance and integrity.

We applaud our colleagues at BC and their ongoing efforts at chapter building, which will provide faculty at BC with a formal structure to promote academic freedom, shared governance, and other fundamental AAUP principles, and we support them in these efforts. We hope that as our colleagues at BC recognize the importance of supporting BCAAUP, there will be increased collaboration and communication among faculty, strengthening the existing advocacy chapter and facilitating the establishment of a faculty senate. AAUP chapters and faculty senates exist and support each other through the different roles they play at many institutions as articulated in *On the Relationship Between AAUP Chapters and Faculty Senates*, written by Larry Gerber and online at [www.aaup.org/AAUP/involved/startchapter/senatesandchapters.htm](http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/involved/startchapter/senatesandchapters.htm). The BC administration need look no further than Fairfield to see how a strong AAUP chapter and genuine shared governance based on AAUP principles can coexist and make for a stronger institution.



### ***Reinventing Governance from the Ground Up***

A presentation by Boston College AAUP members (left to right) Michael Clarke, Susan Michalczyk, Judith Wilt, and Lynn Johnson at the AAUP Shared Governance Conference and Workshops, November 12-14, 2010, Washington DC

Photo credit: Carl Snyder





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.*



**FWC/AAUP-Sponsored Receptions 2/4/2011 and 3/4/2011:**

Thanks to all who stayed and chatted over drinks and snacks at the last General Faculty meeting on February 4. The FWC is pleased to provide this opportunity for faculty to gather informally across departments and schools to discuss our issues of common concern. Don't miss the next FWC-sponsored gala reception after the General Faculty meeting on March 4.

**Save the Dates - Information to Follow:**

✓ *A Day of Action in Defense of Higher Education*

April 13, 2011

See: [www.aaup.org/AAUP/GR/Public/21st.htm](http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/GR/Public/21st.htm)

✓ *CT State Conference-AAUP Annual Spring Meeting*

The Graduate Club at Yale, New Haven CT, May 12, 2011

✓ *AAUP Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education*

Washington DC, June 8-12, 2011

✓ *AAUP Summer Institute*

Suffolk University, Boston MA, July 21-24, 2011

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. Membership Director: Cheryl Tromley. Newsletter Editor: Irene Mulvey

**Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP**

Rick DeWitt, President  
Philosophy Department  
Fairfield University  
1073 North Benson Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824