

Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP Excellence in Education

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From the FWC/AAUP President:

Dear Colleagues:

We begin this semester where we ended last semester - deeply concerned about troubling issues of governance and compensation. Since our last issue, unilateral increases to health insurance cost-shares took effect on January 1 - over the objections of the Faculty Salary Committee (FSC), the Health Care Committee (HCC) and the Trigger Committee. The FWC Steering Committee is in close contact with the FSC and we look forward to FSC reports to the faculty at General Faculty meetings.

In the meantime, I would like to call your attention to a state-wide commemoration of the AAUP's 2015 Centennial: *Celebrating 100 Years of Activism* which will be held at Wesleyan University on Feb. 14 (full details are in the flyer insert). The program is fantastic, but we are especially interested in the presentation by AAUP Senior Counsel Aaron Nisenson on the recent National Labor Relations Board decisions on faculty unionization at private institutions. Attorney Nisenson will discuss the brief submitted to the NLRB by the AAUP in the Pacific Lutheran case, and explain all the recent NLRB decisions. **The FWC/AAUP is sending a contingent of faculty members to this event so that we can understand how this ruling expanding the ability to form faculty unions at private universities may apply to Fairfield, and we would like to get as many faculty to this presentation as possible.** If you are interested in joining our group, register for this *free* event (registration details are in the flyer insert) and then let me know. I look forward to our chapter's involvement in the Centennial Celebration and beyond!

I wish you all a productive Spring semester and hope to see you at all of our upcoming FWC/AAUP events.

Rona Preli
FWC/AAUP President

Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP NEWS AND EVENTS

FWC Wine & Cheese WELCOME BACK! Support Adjunct Faculty! THURSDAY, FEB 5, 4:00 to 6:00 PM ALUMNI HOUSE

The FWC/AAUP continues its outreach to our contingent faculty members with another get-together. Encourage adjunct faculty members to attend and join us as we support our adjunct colleagues and thank them for all that they do for our academic community. FWC leaders will provide information about the benefits of joining the AAUP. In addition, we are looking for interested adjunct faculty AAUP members to serve on the brand new FWC Committee on Contingency and the Profession. More on 2/5 at Alumni House.



The CT Conference of the AAUP commemorates the 2015 AAUP Centennial:

Celebrating 100 Years of Activism

SAT, FEB 14 9:30AM - 4PM
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
EXLEY SCIENCE CENTER
FREE! OPEN TO ANY
FACULTY MEMBER IN CT!

(Post the flyer insert on your door.)

This is an incredible opportunity to meet and work with national AAUP leaders and to connect with AAUP activists from all over the state. The FWC's very own Jocelyn Boryczka and Irene Mulvey have been invited to co-present two of the afternoon breakout sessions. We are planning to send a large contingent of FWC members and would love to have you join us. Registration details are in the flyer insert.

Education is a social process.
Education is growth.
Education is not a preparation
for life; education is life itself.

-John Dewey



Members who would like a new chapter button or a chapter t-shirt, contact Membership Director Stephanie Storms.

AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress Webinar

TUES., FEB. 10 1:00-2:00 PM

Negotiating Contingency: Devising a Practical Workplan

Mike Mauer, labor attorney, senior labor advisor to AAUP, and author of *The Union Member's Complete Guide* and *Academic Collective Bargaining* will present. The webinar is open to any member of the FWC. Register at

www.aaup.org/event/negotiating-contingency-webinar

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Faculty Salary Committee:

The FWC EC gets regular updates from our FSC.

FWC Action Committee:

remains on high alert. To get on the email list, contact co-chair Jocelyn Boryczka

NOTED SCHOLAR VISITS FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

Fairfield University is hosting noted Russian Studies Scholar Stephen F. Cohen on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 7 PM in the Kelley Presentation Center. Prof. Cohen is Professor Emeritus of History and Russian Studies at New York University and Professor Emeritus of Politics at Princeton. He will speak on *The Ukrainian Crisis: Why a New Cold War?* Cohen will be accompanied by his wife, Ms. Katrina vanden Heuvel, editor and publisher of *The Nation*.

Hank Reichman, 1st Vice President of AAUP and Chair of the AAUP's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, recently discussed on the Academe blog (link below) how Cohen and vanden Heuvel's work with the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in setting up a fund for dissertation fellowships and travel grants for scholars to do research and intensive language training in the Russian Federation has been attacked by members of the ASEEES Board of Directors and other academics, causing the Board to attach conditions to the program. Prof. Cohen has a long and distinguished career as a historian and as an analyst of Russian and Soviet politics and history. He is especially well known for his seminal biography of Nikolai Bukharin (1980), the major viable alternative to Stalin and Stalinism, and for his pathbreaking work, known to all students and scholars of 20th century Russia, *Rethinking the Soviet Experience: Politics and History since 1917* (1986). Prof. Cohen and Ms. vanden Heuvel did pioneering work in their interviews with Gorbachev's reformers (*Voices of Glasnost, 1991*) and with survivors of the Gulag (*The Victims Return: Survivors of the Gulag After Stalin, 2010*).

The Executive Committee of the Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP is concerned that the attempts to pressure Cohen and vanden Heuvel, discussed in detail in a New York Times article and blog posts (accessible by links at the end of this article), are a serious violation of the principles and spirit of academic freedom and should be opposed.

The academic community of Fairfield University looks forward to welcoming Prof. Cohen and Ms. vanden Heuvel to Fairfield on February 5 in the spirit of our commitment to open dialogue, free academic inquiry, and spirited debate on an issue of great importance to the world which should concern us all.

David W. McFadden, Ph.D.

Professor of History

Director, Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies



FURTHER READING:

New York Times, 1/28/2015: Scholars at Odds on Ukraine, by Jennifer Schuessler

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/29/arts/scholars-at-odds-on-ukraine.html>

Academe Blog, 1/30/2015: The Troubling Case of Professor Stephen Cohen and the American Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, by Hank Reichman

academeblog.org/2015/01/30/the-troubling-case-of-professor-stephen-cohen-and-the-american-association-for-slavic-east-european-and-eurasian-studies/

NYU Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, 2/1/2015: Does Stephen Cohen Have the Right to be Outspoken? Does the ASEEES Board Have the Right to Remain Silent?, by Yanni Kotsonis

jordanrussiacenter.org/news/stephen-cohen-right-outspoken-aseees-board-right-remain-silent/#.VNETgsbfBU

Academe Blog, 2/2/2015: ASEEES responds to the Cohen Controversy, by Hank Reichman

academeblog.org/2015/02/02/aseees-responds-to-cohen-controversy/

The Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP at Fairfield University is an *ad hoc* committee of the General Faculty and an affiliate of the national AAUP. About 70% of the full-time faculty at Fairfield are members of the FWC. If you aren't a member, please consider joining. The FWC promotes the professional and economic interests, broadly defined, of the Fairfield University Faculty. All our activities are open to all members of the faculty but we are funded entirely by our dues-paying members. To join, contact any member of the Executive Committee.

From the Archives:

General Faculty Meeting on May 9, 2005

Excerpt of Minutes

MOTION. The General Faculty accepts the 2005-2006 Memo of Understanding

Professor Kathy Nantz spoke against the motion. Her position is not in any way critical of the FSC; they have done a heroic job this year. On principle, Prof. Nantz did not apply for additional merit this year or last year. Given the increase in cost-of-living, her (presumed) 3% raise plus the increase in medical co-pays plus two children in elementary school equals a huge pay cut. Prof. Nantz expressed frustration at this aspect of our working conditions; should she consider being an adjunct somewhere else or perhaps getting a paper route? Prof. Nantz continued, saying that her real salary is declining even though she is working harder than ever. She wants an MOU even though it may be meaningless because she does not want to negotiate her own salary.

Professor Ron Salafia spoke against the motion. He applauds the FSC for putting up with a lot of nonsense from the Academic Vice President and the micro-managing Board of Trustees. Prof. Salafia also wants an MOU but we should send a message with our vote. The General Faculty is utterly demoralized. We abhor the current situation when all we get is empty rhetoric about faculty governance and collegiality. Prof. Salafia hopes that the motion passes by one vote since the administration and Board must know the level of our dissatisfaction.

FWC/AAUP Executive Committee: Rona Preli, President; Jocelyn Boryczka, Vice-President; Bill Abbott, Secretary; Irene Mulvey, Treasurer; At-large members Betsy Bowen, Sonya Huber, Anna Lawrence, Deb Strauss. Membership Director: Stephanie Storms.

Rona Preli, FWC/AAUP President
GSEAP/Canisius Hall
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824