

Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP

Excellence in Education

WELCOME NEWSLETTER



From the FWC/AAUP President.

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to a new semester! I hope your summer break from teaching and service was productive and/or relaxing.

As we do in class most days, let's start with a quick review: The FWC/AAUP is an *ad hoc* committee of the General Faculty at Fairfield University and an affiliate chapter of the American Association of University Professors, a membership organization of over 43,000 higher education academic professionals. The AAUP's mission is "to advance academic freedom and shared governance; to define professional values and standards; to promote the economic security of those who teach and research in higher education; to organize to make our goals a reality; and to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good." The AAUP has been promoting this mission for over one hundred years. I encourage you to visit aaup.org. Our AAUP chapter, the Faculty Welfare Committee, has been our faculty organization at Fairfield for over 30 years; founding members are still on campus! Our mission is "to promote faculty welfare, broadly defined, through chapter programs and activities designed to advance academic freedom, advance the economic and professional status of the faculty, encourage faculty participation in governance, and inform the community about AAUP standards and policy statements to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good."

I continue to be honored by the confidence shown in me by the membership in electing me to serve as Chapter President. The current elected Executive Committee - your colleagues Professors Maggie Labinski (VP), Bill Abbott (Sec'y), Paul Baginski (Treasurer), and at-large members Peter Bayers, Anita Fernandez, Sonya Huber & Anna Lawrence, are the best leadership team any President could ask for. We've already had our first EC meeting and we are ready for the year ahead! (p5)

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(Bottom left: the fabulous set-up crew. We are a lot wetter than we look.)



Best wishes for a great year from *your* Faculty Welfare Committee. To learn how to join, visit faculty.fairfield.edu/fwc



I hope you will be able to attend our talk, *Academic Freedom in the Age of Trump*, this Friday, September 20, at 4:00 in the multi-media room of NYS Library. Thanks to our many co-sponsors! (See flyer included with this issue.) Dr. Tiede is an expert on academic freedom and how it relates to freedom of expression and free speech. We've invited the members of the Provost's Task Force on Free Expression to our event, and we have asked Dr. Tiede to review the *Principles that Guide Free Expression* drafted by the Task Force. If you are able to come early, there will be wine and snacks at 3:30 PM.

Later in the semester, we are planning a social with the students involved in *Students and Workers United* (SWU). We continue to work with all our coalition partners in *Fairfield University Workers United* (FUWU), but the SWU students are very interested in deeper connections with the faculty, and we are happy to see what we can do. Speaking of FUWU, our colleagues in Local 30 are in very tough contract negotiations with the Fairfield University administration. We stand in solidarity with our fellow workers in support of their demand for a fair contract that gets them the best health care available to them. We urge the administration to work toward a satisfactory outcome with an open mind, and we stand ready to assist our fellow workers.

As the year goes on, I hope you will consider stepping up to a more active role in the FWC. If you aren't a member, please consider joining (see faculty.fairfield.edu/fwc). We will be working closely with our colleagues on the Faculty Salary Committee as they undertake contract negotiations this year. National AAUP can conduct a financial analysis for us, or provide on-site training for bargaining, or both! These resources are available to our chapter for free from national AAUP and we would make them open to as many FWC/AAUP members as we can - and that means you! We are looking forward to supporting the Faculty Salary Committee in whatever ways they wish. Many, many thanks to the membership for approving overwhelmingly the dues increase. We are confident our treasury will enable us to consult with our attorney as needed and that we will be able to provide support in this crucial negotiation year.

In addition to being more active in the FWC on campus, please consider being more active at the state and national levels. I would love to get FWC members to the AAUP's annual meeting in DC in June or to the AAUP Summer Institute in July. I presented two workshops at the SI in Chicago this year. As always, it was four fun-filled days of academic freedom, shared governance, and faculty activism! We were in Chicago on the centennial anniversary of the historic Chicago Race Riot of 1919, and one of our activities was a deeply moving and informative tour - given by the IL Labor History Society - of relevant sites: Bronzeville, the iconic Stockyard Gate, former offices of the Chicago Defender, home of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and more.

The plenary session continued the commemoration with reflections on that week of violence and the impacts still felt today. I wish some of you had been able to attend with me. (There are resources available — we could send a team of members at no cost to our chapter!)

I didn't want to leave Chicago without paying tribute to the Haymarket martyrs. On the right is a picture of their gravesite. It's hard to see, but that red button in the center is one of our very own FWC/AAUP buttons. I left it there.

In Solidarity and Community,
Irene Mulvey
Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP President

