

# Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP Newsletter

## Excellence in Education



**KEEP  
CALM  
and  
READ THE  
SYLLABUS**

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### From the FWC/AAUP President:

Dear Colleagues,

I did not expect to be writing you again so soon. I am doing so because many of you have concerns about guidance received from your deans about how to communicate with students about our Covid reopening plans. The guidance differed by school, but referenced (or should have referenced) the relevant motions passed by the Academic Council, which the FWC EC has helpfully included in this newsletter on page 2. We urge you to read them carefully. These motions are the mutually-approved policy regarding teaching this semester.

The main issue of concern is that the AC motion says explicitly that faculty “are *strongly encouraged* to work with their departments and deans to develop on-campus experiences that are consistent with their pedagogy, course goals and curriculum.” It does not say “will” or “must” or “shall.” The University promised students on-campus experiences that contribute to their learning. The AC motion left it to deans, chairs, and departments to decide how best to do that. No individual is mandated to provide on-campus experiences, but collectively we agreed to provide them.

A second issue involves how we communicate this to our students. It behooves us to emphasize the on-campus elements in our courses, especially in the initial conversations with them. We have invited students back to campus. It makes sense to convey why.

I am aware that not all of us thought it wise to have students gather in dorms during a pandemic. That’s a vital point. However, they are here. I am also aware that it is not the job of the FWC to clarify administrative policy, which is contained in the AC motions. We write now to provide context. The FWC believes that faculty should understand their rights, responsibilities, and the limits to their responsibilities, in this parlous time.

In Solidarity,  
Dave Crawford,  
FWC/AAUP President

### FWC/AAUP Mission

We 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

### **A Public Service Announcement from the FWC EC:**

In light of communications faculty in some schools received from Deans today, as a public service, the FWC EC would like to state the two mutually-approved motions articulating policy for fall teaching. The first (passed by the AC on 6/30/2020) on “on-campus” experiences, and the second (passed by the AC on 6/19/2020) on the importance of clear and early communication with our students:

**AC MOTION (passed 6/30/2020):** To maintain our high standards and faculty’s ongoing commitment to effective teaching and student learning, all faculty teaching undergraduates, those planning to come to campus in the fall as well as those who will be unable to come to campus, are strongly encouraged to work with their departments and deans to develop on-campus experiences that are consistent with their pedagogy, course goals and curriculum. To facilitate this endeavor AC will appoint a taskforce of AC faculty members who, in consultation with the CAE, will report back to the AC, first on July 15th, and then subsequently, on possible models which would be consistent with the spirit of enhancing, as much as possible, the on-campus experiences of student learning.

[Note: Subsequently, the taskforce’s report was approved and is posted on the COVID-19 Faculty Resource Page maintained by the Provost’s Office: <https://wiki.fairfield.edu/display/AA/COVID-19+Faculty+Resource+Page>]

**AC MOTION (passed 6/19/2020):** Given the exigencies of the current pandemic, faculty should post Fall 2020 syllabi and information about access to other course materials on the blackboard sites for their classes. Materials should be posted no later than September 1, but faculty are encouraged to post their materials earlier in the summer.

FWC/AAUP Executive Committee: Dave Crawford, President; Maggie Labinski, Vice-President; Bill Abbott, Secretary; Paul Baginski, Treasurer; At-large members: Jen Adair, Peter Bayers, Anita Fernandez, Shannon Kelley. Immediate Past-President Irene Mulvey

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