

# The Minnesota Academe

A Publication of the Minnesota Conference of the American Association of University Professors

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## Minnesota AAUP Likely to Host 2009 Summer Institute

Well, the idea has been floating around since the 2007 Summer Institute when Eric Wiertelak and Jeremy Nienow first spoke with AAUP national office staff about bringing the annual Summer Institute to Minnesota. At this time, it is nearly official - and you will be hearing much more about it in upcoming announcements and newsletters - but it does now appear to be a go: Minnesota will likely host the 2009 Summer Institute at Macalester College in St. Paul.

MACALESTER  
COLLEGE



If you are interested in getting involved, helping to organize, leading a tour for our fellows while they are in town, or just want to help - please answer the call and get in contact with our MN AAUP President - Eric Wiertelak.

## A Few words from the President

Welcome back to another academic year from the Executive Committee of the Minnesota Conference of AAUP. This year promises to be an important one for the profession and this state conference. Our annual Fall Forum will be held October 24-25 at Hamline University, and features a great keynote address by Steven Leberstein PhD of the City University of New York, entitled "Labor Issues in Higher Education"; other session programming during the Fall Forum will center on contingent faculty issues and conversion of faculty lines between term contracts and tenure lines. I

hope many of our membership and other interested faculty and graduate students will join us for these events at Hamline; further information can be found in this issue of the newsletter. Looking ahead, the early days of the Spring semester will see our annual meeting held once again at Macalester College. Programming is for the annual meeting has not yet been finalized, but look for updates coming your way via the state member email list and on the website at : [MNAAUP.ORG]. Speaking of the website, our new design is in the final days of testing and will be unveiled during October, promising increased resources

and ease of use to access our newsletter archives, links to our state Committee A, and other useful information. Finally, mark your calendars for this coming July 24-26, 2009, as Minnesota AAUP is set to serve as the host conference for the national AAUP Summer Institute. The summer institute is a great way to learn more about the national organization, to meet AAUP members from across the United States to discuss the problems facing the profession and work together to identify solutions.

## Fall Forum Speaker Announced: Professor Stephen Lieberstein

**“His research on radicalism and academic labor led him to organizing”**

The MN AAUP has announced Dr. Stephen Lieberstein as the keynote speaker for this year's Fall Forum on Labor Issues in Higher Education

The second recipient of the Frederick Ewen Academic Freedom Fellowship, Stephen Lieberstein has long been active in the defense of academic freedom. One of his interests as both scholar and activist is political repression of the labor left, in particular the New York Teachers Union and College Teachers Union. He now chairs the Academic Freedom Committee of the Professional Staff Congress, the faculty and staff union at CUNY, and served as a member of Committee “A” on Academic Freedom of the American Association of University Professors from 2000 to 2006.

His research on radicalism and academic labor in the 1930s and '40s (see “Purging the Profs: The Rapp Coudert Committee in New York, 1940-1942,” in *New Studies in the Politics and Culture of U. S. Communism*. Monthly Review Press, 1993) led him to organize an effort to have the City University Board of Trustees apologize to the victims of that legislative investigating committee, which it did in 1981. About 50 members of the faculty and staff at City College lost

their jobs in that purge. His essay on the contemporary threat to academic freedom at the City university, “Fragile Promises: Academic Freedom at the City university of New York,” is forthcoming in a volume entitled *Dangerous Professors: Academic Freedom, Academic Capitalism, and the Struggle for Democracy on Campus*, from the University of Michigan Press.

Lieberstein was one of the founders and long-time executive director of the Center for Worker Education at the City College of New York, where he also taught history. Now retired, he teaches part-time on race, labor, radicalism and abolitionism in Brooklyn College's Graduate Center for Worker Education and occasionally at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. He is a member of the editorial board of *Working USA: the Journal of Labor & Society*. He has also written on French syndicalism at the turn of the 20th century.

Lieberstein earned a Ph.D. in European history from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

## 2008 Fall Forum: Labor Issues in Higher Education

The Minnesota State Conference is proud to present the 2008 Fall Forum hosted this year by Hamline University.

October 24 and October 25, 2008  
Hamline University, St. Paul, MN  
Giddens Learning Center, Room 100E

Friday, October 24, 2008  
6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Reception with Light Hors D'Oeuvres,

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Keynote Address and Discussion with  
Dr. Stephen Leberstein, "Labor Issues in Higher Education"

Saturday, October 25  
Giddens Learning Center, Room 100E

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 am. - Reception/Coffee

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Panel on Conversion Policies and Current Contingency Faculty Issues  
All events are free and open to the public.



(The Giddens Learning Center)

Parking Info: On Friday, parking is free in all Hamline University lots after 4:00 p.m. On Saturday, Visitor's Parking, Lot C, located near the corner of Hewitt Ave. and Pascal, can be used. Maps of campus can be obtained off the Hamline University website: [www.hamline.edu](http://www.hamline.edu)

### Council Representative Report - Cecilia Konchar Farr

*“This year, it was all business, all the time—and my official term has not even begun yet.”*

As the newly-elected representative to the AAUP’s National Council from our district (District II: Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming!), I attended the June meetings in Washington DC with an unfamiliar weight of responsibility on my shoulders. Generally, I attend the annual meeting, take a leisurely stroll around Washington DC, grab some photos at a couple of monuments, have a pleasant meal or two and do a little shopping. This year, it was all business, all the time—and my “official term” has not even begun yet. I attend my first meeting as a voting member in November.

Not that I’m complaining! This is important work we’re engaged in: restructuring the organization from top to bottom to clarify its roles and responsibilities in the lives of the nation’s professoriate. All this and electing a new general secretary, too. You

have probably heard that the restructuring involves dividing our one big group into three separate entities “under one AAUP umbrella,” as President Cary Nelson says. We are sorting the advocacy chapters or Association of State Conferences (that’s us) from the charitable foundation and from the collective bargaining or unionized chapters, but all still as part of the professional organization we call the AAUP. This sorting requires fiscal divisions, constitutional amendments—and new constitutions. For my part, it requires informed voting and lots of roll-up-your-sleeves planning to confront the challenges in front of us. In short, it’s an exciting time to be part of the AAUP, and I thank you for electing me to be a part of it.

While all of the restructuring proceeds, the national council continues its usual work—staffing the office, reauthorizing dues struct -

## Council Report - continued from page 4

ures, streamlining the organizational practices (integrating new technologies that will serve us more reliably), voting for new officers, keeping in touch with issues in all of its ten districts, and staying on top of legislation related to higher education in the US. No wonder the initiation into my new position began with a huge binder of “required reading” (Can that qualify as hazing?).

After years of active service in the AAUP, I have still have a lot to learn, but June’s Annual Meeting was a lively and enlivening introduction to the work. I will keep you posted on the meetings to come—and maybe share a few photos of monuments, if I ever get a minute to take a stroll!

(if you would like to contact our representative, please see her contact information at the back of this newsletter)

*“No wonder the initiation into my new position began with a huge binder of required reading”*

## MNAAP Conference President shares other highlights from National Meeting

Here are a few additional noteworthy pieces from motions passed at the National Meeting as shared with me by Eric Wiertelak:

- 1) Urging the government of Iran to remove barriers to access to higher education experienced by members of the Baha'i faith.
- 2) Further stating the AAUP position opposing efforts by state legislatures to determine what scientific ideas—widely accepted or not—should be taught in colleges and universities. This was a result of further activity in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Missouri regarding the teaching of intelligent design.
- 3) Affirming an AAUP stance on loyalty oaths; that refusal to sign a state-mandated loyalty oath does not justify in and of itself the refusal to appoint a faculty members or the termination of a faculty appointment.
- 4) AAUP supports college and university policies relying on trained and equipped law-enforcement personnel to respond to emergencies on campus. This is in regard to recent state legislature activity allowing licensed gun owners to carry concealed weapons on campus, such as in the state of Utah.

### Nienow Attends COCAL VIII in San Diego, CA.

The bi-annual conference on contingent academic labor (COCAL) was held in San Diego, California on August 8th through the 10th on the campus of San Diego State University. Jeremy Nienow, a Minnesota State Conference Director, had the opportunity to attend the conference both as a representative for the state conference, but also as an invited panelist. "I had the distinct pleasure of attending COCAL VII up in Vancouver a couple years ago - it really opened my eyes, as a graduate student, to the other side, maybe the darker side, of what employment issues and real struggles that contingent labor faces not only here, but around the world. I guess it should come as no surprise that I joined the AAUP National contingent committee after cycling off the grad committee.", Nienow stated.

*"It really opened my eyes, as a graduate student to the darker side of employment issues"*

The conference brought together contingent faculty from throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico and was an intense series of panels and sessions. Jeremy was invited to speak on a panel for graduate students and address some of the challenges they face in moving from full time students and instructors - to graduates, and then in many cases frequent flyers of the adjunct hiway. "I like to call myself a Road Scholar...Flo (Hatcher) and I wanted grad students to get a voice at the conference and we heard from a diverse group of folks - including members from McGill who are currently going through a prolonged graduate student strike in an attempt to get organized. I could not imagine trying to get my own work done, teaching classes, and then attempting a very long, organized, walk out - my heart goes out to them." Nienow stated that he met with another Minnesota faculty member from Duluth and that the two of them were considering starting a COCAL Minnesota.

If you would like to learn more about the panels and sessions that were held at this year's event, please contact Jeremy Nienow (his information is on the next page) or head to <http://www.cocal-ca.org/confhome.htm>.



## HOW TO REACH MN COMMITTEE A:

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We are on the Web!!  
[www.mnaaup.org](http://www.mnaaup.org)

## HOW TO APPLY TO MN AAUP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND:

The State conference legal defense fund has \$3,000 available to members or chapters needing legal council. Maximum grant is \$1,500 per chapter or \$1,000 per individual. To apply contact the conference president Eric Wiertelak at [wiertelak@macalester.edu](mailto:wiertelak@macalester.edu)

## How to contact the Minnesota AAUP

Visit us at our website <<http://www.mnaaup.org>> or contact one of the state executive committee members listed here.

President: Eric Wiertelak, Macalester College

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Vice President: Karen Vogel, Hamline University: [kvogel@gw.hamline.edu](mailto:kvogel@gw.hamline.edu)

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Director: Jeremy Nienow, Minneapolis Community and Technical College

[Jeremy.nienow@minneapolis.edu](mailto:Jeremy.nienow@minneapolis.edu)

Grad Student Representative: Claire Kirchhoff, University of Minnesota

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## AAUP and AFT to Jointly Organize at Nations Top Public Universities

*From [aaup.org](http://aaup.org) - The American Federation of Teachers and the American Association of University Professors signed an agreement that will bring the resources of both organizations together to jointly organize faculty and staff at our nation's top public institutions of higher education. "The AAUP looks forward to reinforcing our long traditions of academic freedom and shared governance through a series of joint organizing campaigns with the AFT. Now, more than ever, these values need to be cemented in a collective bargaining contract," said AAUP President Cary Nelson. The AFT and the AAUP currently have seven locals in six states that already benefit from joint affiliations. The two organizations will begin meeting with faculty and staff immediately to determine other potential organizing opportunities.*