

First and Foremost

The American Association of University Professors is a professional organization dedicated to three principals: Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Shared Governance. These principals form a common ground for all faculty – a common ground upon which we can stand united.

The commitment that we, as members of AAUP, feel to the organization is due in part to language such as the following, which is taken from one of the foundation documents of AAUP, written nearly one hundred years ago:

“These considerations make still more clear the nature of the relationship between university trustees and members of university faculties. The latter are the appointees, but not in any proper sense the employees, of the former. For, once appointed, the scholar has professional functions to perform in which the appointing authorities have neither competency nor moral right to intervene.”

-Excerpt from the AAUP 1915 Declaration of Principles.
The entire document can be found at sccaaup.org.

What the Heck is Academic Freedom, Anyway?

One of the stated Purposes of the Sinclair AAUP Chapter is to “Promote and Protect Academic Freedom.” Most of us would agree that this is a desirable goal, and in fact our own faculty handbook includes the statement on Academic Freedom taken from the AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure (see section 2.4.1 in faculty handbook). It encompasses the right of faculty to full freedom in research and in the publication of results, freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, and the right of faculty to be free from institutional censorship or discipline when they speak or write as citizens.

What does this mean for us? It means that we are free to conduct our classes in the way we see fit to best help our students learn; to set standards, to choose materials with which to teach, to choose the forum in which the class is presented. **It means that when it comes to curriculum, we are the primary authority for design and delivery.**

To see all of the Purposes of the Sinclair AAUP Chapter, go to <http://sccaaup.org/aboutus.html>. To see the AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure, go to <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/1940statement.htm>.

Changes on the way from STRS

In a report posted July 12, 2010 on the STRS website, it was disclosed that the State Teachers Retirement Board unanimously adopted a plan to reform our pensions. Among other components, the plan includes an increase in the number of years to be eligible for retirement. Beginning Aug. 1, 2015, members can retire at any age with 35 years of service; at age 60 with 30 years of service; or at age 65 with five years of service. Other changes include an increase in member contributions, and an increase in the final average salary years. Learn more at <https://www.strsoh.org/>

Kudos to the Administration

The Sinclair AAUP applauds the administration for reinstating a stipend for the important job of mentoring new faculty. With the ranks of our part-time faculty growing, the job of providing guidance to new faculty becomes increasingly more important to maintain the high standards for which Sinclair Community College is known.

The new mentoring program will be effective Fall 2010. Full-time faculty will be paid \$150 to mentor an adjunct who has never taught for Sinclair, and \$50 to mentor an adjunct who isn't new, but is teaching a course for the first time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Our next Speaker Forum will feature Howard Bunsis of Eastern Michigan University and AAUP General Secretary Gary Rhoades. These guys are dynamic speakers and this is one opportunity you won't want to miss. The date is Oct. 19 - stay tuned for more information regarding this exciting event!
- Our next Brown Bag Meeting is October 1 at noon in room . Come hear about the analysis of data provided by the administration in response to the SCCAAUP's Open Records Act requests.

Bowling Green State University to Hold Election for Collective Bargaining

The BGSU-FA is moving forward in its effort to achieve collective bargaining. A secret mail-in vote will take place beginning September 28th and ending October 12th.

The bargaining unit includes all full-time BGSU faculty members: Professors, Instructors, Associate Professors, Lecturers, Assistant Professors, and Senior Lecturers.

Bowling Green is the most recent university in Ohio to take this step towards collective bargaining with the AAUP. Other Ohio institutions that already have collective bargaining through AAUP are Cuyahoga Community College, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, North Central State College, Wright State University, University of Akron, Kent State University, Central State University, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, Wilberforce University, and Cleveland State University.