

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

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→ **Is there any chapter news that you would like to share with the rest of the state? Send it along to the newsletter editor.**

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Please contact members of the Executive Committee with your questions, concerns and offers to help in the important work of AAUP

STATE ANNUAL MEETING TAKES A STAND ON PROPOSED ACADEMIC BILL OF RIGHTS; CONFERENCE PASSES RESOLUTION OPPOSING NC SENATE BILL 1139

OCTOBER APPALACHIAN MEETING WILL FOCUS ON THE ISSUE!

Resolution on Academic Freedom in North Carolina

WHEREAS academic freedom is necessary to advance all areas of human knowledge; and

WHEREAS government control of university teaching and research is antithetical to the free exchange of ideas; and

WHEREAS numerous protections for the academic freedom of both students and faculty alike are already substantively built into the codes, missions, and visions of the University of North Carolina system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The North Carolina Conference of the American Association of University Professors calls on state legislators to oppose Senate Bill 1139 because the Academic Bill of Rights proposes to remove academic expertise as the standard for decisions about teaching and research at universities. Only the scholarly expertise of the faculty should continue to determine the content of teaching and research. We urge all faculty and administrators at North Carolina colleges and universities to join us in our opposition to this political intrusion on academic freedom.

An Academic Bill of Goods

**Glenn Howze, Secretary
AAUP Assembly of State Conferences**

Beware of the latest bill of goods that is being peddled these days in the name of academic freedom. In state legislatures across the country intellectual snake oil, neatly packaged with the label "Academic Bill of Rights" (ABR), is being hawked as a cure for perceived intellectual hegemony and intolerance at colleges and universities.

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According to the proponents of ABR, there is a lack of scholarly diversity in the classroom

and students and faculty who disagree with accepted views are punished. ABR advocates argue that the liberal arts and social sciences are populated with left-leaning teachers and that godless professors control the sciences. (A recent study showing that a larger percentage of American professors vote for the Democratic Party than the Republican Party is often cited as proof of a lack of diversity.) The proposed fix is to legislate that the scholarly works of all professors are equal and all answers on exams are correct. Academic departments should be required to “balance” their faculties by hiring professors on the basis on their political and religious values. Professors should be required to honor the beliefs of students by accepting their viewpoints on academic matters as equal to refereed scholarly findings.

David Horowitz, president and founder of the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, is the author of the ABR. I remember meeting Horowitz in the early 1960s when he was a self-proclaimed leader of the New Left. Even in those days, he had that “look in his eyes” and was known for his defense of indefensible positions. During the 1980s he “saw the light” and did a 180-degree turn to become a spokesman for the political right. That change resulted in a financial windfall for his organization which has received generous funding from a number of foundations known for their political agendas, including the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the John M. Olin Foundation and the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation. Two years ago Horowitz and his organization focused on the academy and began his effort to push the ABR.

His first major effort was in Colorado in 2003 where he met with key politicians who drafted legislation incorporating the tenets of ABR. That attempt failed when it was noted that the state institutions already had free speech policies and everyone agreed that they should be enforced. Horowitz has moved on to other states. This year legislation based on the ABR has been introduced in California, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island. Efforts are underway in other states. At the national level, ABR language has been added to the House version of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. A student organization supporting ABR -- Students for Academic Freedom (SAF) -- is organizing on campuses around the country.

AAUP is active in opposing the ABR at both the state and national level. The Committee on Government Relations is monitoring developments in the states and providing technical support as needed.

Interestingly, Horowitz has quoted policy statements of the AAUP in support of ABR. AAUP has made it clear that its principles and policies are not in support of his efforts. AAUP’s Committee A has issued a response to the ABR and has invited comments from the professoriate. (See aaup.org/statements/SpchState/Statements/billofrights.htm) In another document (aaup.org/Issues/ABOR/aborintro2.htm), AAUP provides a summary of its position:

With all freedoms come responsibilities. While all participants in academic life have a right to retain and express (in appropriate venues) their beliefs and opinions, teachers and researchers are responsible "by example and practice, to abide by the best scholarly and ethical standards of their disciplines." (AAUP Statement on Professional Ethics.) Students are responsible for "maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled." (Joint Statement on the Rights and Freedom of Students.)

In the U.S., neither teachers nor students are responsible to the government for the content of their teaching or learning.

Proposed bills in a handful of state legislatures challenge this fundamental concept that higher education, in this society, is and should be free of government control or interference. A so-called "Academic Bill of Rights ... would involve the state and/or federal government in oversight of curricula and teaching, and faculty hiring and promotion in both public and private institutions of higher education.

In North Carolina, I think it would be difficult to make a case that there is a major, or even a minor problem of denying students their basic rights and freedom. If there is a rogue professor here or there who attempts to impose his/her values on students, he/she should be sanctioned. What is not needed is for the government to get involved in the hiring and firing of professors or in setting course content, requirements and grades. The success of higher education in America rests on the premise that it is free from political control. Let’s work to keep it that way.

NATIONAL NEWS _____

Campus Equity Week (October 31 to November 4, 2005)

Make a difference on your campus

Are there lots of contingent faculty members in your department who have little opportunity to become part of the department community? Host a tea or happy hour to let them get to know one another. Is your campus full of tenure-track faculty who aren't aware of the extent of the contingent faculty problem in academia? Arrange a showing of the film Degrees of Shame, which explains it. Does your state have potential legislation that would mandate fair pay or health benefits for part-time faculty? Organize a letter-writing campaign and lobbying visits to support it. Whether you have a few hours or a few months to devote to Campus Equity Week activities, there is something you can do.

Need help? For information, ideas, and materials such as Campus Equity Week flyers and buttons, contact Gwendolyn Bradley at the AAUP (202-737-5900, ext. 3012; gbradley@aaup.org), or visit the Campus Equity Week Web site at <http://www.campusequityweek.org>.

**NEW NC-AAUP WEBSITE!
CHECK IT OUT!**

Our new website--at www.aaup.appstate.edu/nc.html--announces meetings, funding opportunities, conference information, by-laws, contact information, and links to AAUP chapters in the state. The webmaster is Prof. Martha McCaughey and the site is hosted on Ap-

STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS _____ **DON'T MISS THIS FALL'S STATEWIDE CONFERENCE!!!**

**NC-AAUP Conference to Meet October 21 at Appalachian State
Among the Fall Leaves! Special Block of Hotel Rooms Set Aside.
Come and Make a Weekend of It in the North Carolina Mountains!**

See the Back Cover for Complete Details.

Send in the preregistration form below and save on conference fees

Pre-registration form — October 21, 2005 NC-AAUP Conference - Appalachian State University

Name _____ School _____

Address _____

Send form and payment to:

**Dr. Jerry Pubantz, Treasurer — NC-AAUP, Dept. of History and Political Science,
Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC 27108**

Registration Fee: \$15.00 when mailed with this pre-registration form

\$20.00 at the Conference

\$10.00 for graduate students by preregistration or at the door

Make Checks Payable to North Carolina AAUP

North Carolina Annual Conference of the American Association of University Professors
Friday, October 21, 2005
1:00 to 6:30 PM

Roan Mountain Room, Plemmons Student Union, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
This year's meeting theme is The Academic Bill of Rights

NC-AAUP has assembled an excellent set of speakers who will spark informative, lively discussions on one of the most significant threats to academic freedom today. Please join us for this afternoon of stimulating events. By afternoon's end, the NC-AAUP will hold its annual Business Meeting with all the members of AAUP in North Carolina who are present. This is an excellent chance for you to network and participate in the work of the organization.

In addition to this announcement, you can find full information on the conference at the NC-AAUP's website—<http://www.aaup.appstate.edu/nc.html>. There you will find the Meeting Agenda, registration, hotel and restaurant reservation information (note: advanced reservations suggested!), a map, and guide to parking at ASU. If you should misplace this newsletter, you can print out the registration material on the website and mail it to Jerry Pubantz at the address given.

MEETING Schedule: Address by Professor Cat Warren. *Professor Warren is President of NC State University's AAUP Chapter and a leader of the statewide effort to oppose NC Senate Bill 1139 (Academic Bill of Rights). She will discuss both the seriousness of the threat posed by this legislation and the efforts she and others are making to preserve our academic freedom.*

1:00 Check in, welcome

2:00-5:15 Panelists and Speakers addressing our conference theme

4:00pm—Cat Warren: The Academic Bill of Rights: Origins of the Specious

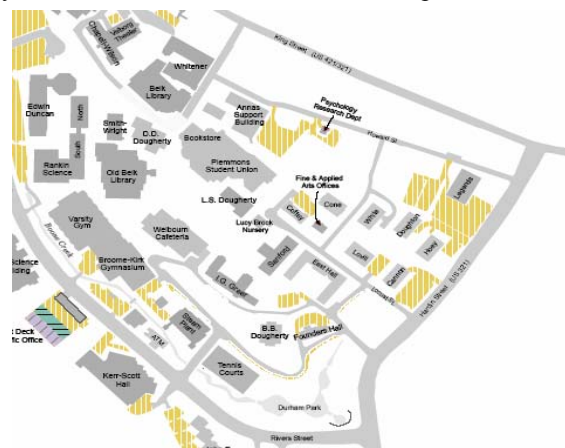
5:30-6:30 NC-AAUP Annual Business Meeting

6:30 Dinner on your own (There are many great restaurants in the Boone and Blowing Rock area. See our website for addresses and reservation phone numbers).

BOONE HOTEL INFORMATION:The Conference has secured a block of rooms at Boone's Quality Inn at a reduced rate. If you wish to stay at the conference hotel, please make your reservations by SEPT 20. After that date, the rooms reserved for AAUP will be made available to the general public. Contact **THE QUALITY INN**, 949 Blowing Rock Rd (Rte 321), Boone, NC. For a reservation, call: (828) 262-0020.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:Directions to The Quality Inn from your location can be found online at <http://www.mapquest.com>. Driving directions to the ASU campus can be found online at: http://www.web.appstate.edu/maps/se_area_map.html

WHERE TO PARK ON THE CAMPUS FOR THE MEETING:When you arrive in Boone, you will want to drive straight to the ASU Rivers Street Parking Deck. The parking fee is \$5 for the day. See the conference link on our website (<http://www.aaup.appstate.edu/nc.html>) for directions both to the parking deck and to the Plemmons Student Union, where the conference will be held. Note that Rivers Street is the main street through the campus. You can turn onto Rivers Street from Rte 321 (Blowing Rock Rd./also called Hardin Street), after which the Parking Deck will be on your left in about a quarter mile.



ENTERTAINMENT (note: purchasing tickets in advance is necessary!):This weekend the conference goers have the chance to visit Tweetsie Railroad, a popular tourist attraction, for the special and spooky late-night Halloween