



American Association of University Professors Michigan Conference

Election 2008

Do More Than Just Vote

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Prop 2 - Stem Cell Research

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The Higher Education Act (HEA) has finally been reauthorized, several years behind schedule. The original legislation, passed in 1965, encompasses nearly all of the major higher education laws of the country. The various titles of the legislation cover student financial aid, institutional grants, teacher training programs, accreditation, and international education and study abroad programs, among other items.

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AAUP Names General Secretary

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is pleased to announce the appointment of its new general secretary, Gary Rhoades. Professor Rhoades is currently professor of higher education at the University of Arizona and director of the university's Center for the Study of Higher Education, a position he has held since 1997. He will begin his term of office as AAUP general secretary in January 2009 and will replace the interim general secretary, Ernst Benjamin, who is retiring. The general secretary heads the staff of the national office in Washington, D.C.

"I am delighted by the opportunity to serve as general secretary, and look forward to working with the national staff, elected leaders, chapters, and members to further strengthen the AAUP and its important work. Among the priorities I hope to see the AAUP address ...

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AAUP Collective Bargaining

By Joel Russell, MIAAUP President

Last spring when I was a candidate for reelection as an at-large member of the Collective Bargaining Congress (CBC) Executive Board, I expressed the desire to serve on this group when it could have substantive discussions and develop policies both to expand higher education collective bargaining and provide enhanced services to current collective bargaining (CB) chapters. My first two year term was devoted almost exclusively to the reorganization of the AAUP from a charitable and educational organization into a professional organization, a union, and a charitable foundation.

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Opinions and Viewpoints are of the Editorial Staff and not that of the Michigan Conference or the National AAUP. Please contact the conference office if you have any questions or comments.

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After many years of limiting organizing efforts to fairly small colleges whose faculty were in desperate need of the protections to their academic freedom, the AAUP is now moving aggressively forward on two fronts. Both of these efforts will target public research universities in states with enabling legislation for higher education unions. Building on previous groundwork done, in one case for at least ten years, and with critical support from a strong state conference, the AAUP will soon launch one such drive and intensify its efforts for another. We have not abandoned our colleagues at Michigan Tech even though their faculty voted to decertify, by a slim nine vote margin, our AAUP chapter which was working on negotiating its first contract. The Michigan Conference and the national Department of Organizing and Servicing (DOS) staff will be working to help our Tech colleagues expand their active AAUP base and again become the CB agent.

On September 17, the AAUP and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) signed a joint organizing agreement. There are currently seven joint AAUP-AFT unions located in six states including one of the strongest such groups at Wayne State. Both organizations felt that to bring collective bargaining to many public research universities the strengths of both were needed. Quoting from the September 17 press release by the AAUP and AFT, "Drastic changes in higher education staffing levels, significant budget cuts and the corporatization of the university's research function have made it clear that faculty and staff at these institutions need a greater voice and more collective power within their workplace." The AAUP brings to such efforts its long tradition in the establishment, promotion, and monitoring of the basic principles of academic freedom and shared governance. These are the bedrock of the American higher education model that has enabled scholars in all fields to be supported in their efforts to advance knowledge, social justice, artistic achievement and our free society. As the changes in research universities noted above become more onerous, it should become easier to rally their faculty to become active participants in supporting AAUP principles. Organizing drives at large universities are time intensive and costly endeavors. The AFT has personnel and fiscal resources that will increase the probability for success in joint organizing campaigns.

The AAUP fiscal meltdown preceded the current US fiscal meltdown by three years. While stocks are still falling as I write this, the AAUP now has its house in order such that we can again use existing DOS personnel to coordinate services... *(con't on page 4)*

Gary Rhoades Appointed AAUP General Secretary

Courtesy of AAUP

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is pleased to announce the appointment of its new general secretary, Gary Rhoades. Professor Rhoades is currently professor of higher education at the University of Arizona and director of the university's Center for the Study of Higher Education, a position he has held since 1997. He will begin his term of office as AAUP general secretary in January 2009 and will replace the interim general secretary, Ernst Benjamin, who is retiring. The general secretary heads the staff of the national office in Washington, D.C.

"I am delighted by the opportunity to serve as general secretary, and look forward to working with the national staff, elected leaders, chapters, and members to further strengthen the AAUP and its important work. Among the priorities I hope to see the AAUP address are the expansion of due process rights for contingent faculty and graduate employees; the enhancement of professional development opportunities for graduate students, new faculty, and academics generally; the broadening of the Association's membership and diversity; and the positioning of faculty and a faculty perspective more centrally in national and state policy deliberations about higher education," Rhoades said, reacting to his appointment as AAUP general secretary.

Rhoades also noted the continuing importance of the AAUP: "The AAUP is at the core of what it means to be a faculty member in a democratic society: being able to pursue one's ideas where they take you; playing a key role in shaping the direction of academic departments, colleges, and universities; and

having the due process rights and job security to make academic freedom and shared governance realities in practice."

Gary Rhoades holds BA, MA, and PhD degrees in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on professions in academe, university restructuring, and science and technology issues in higher education. In a recent National Science Foundation grant with two colleagues (Jen Croissant and Sheila Slaughter), Rhoades has been studying the use of new information technologies in instruction. In addition, with colleagues at the University of Arizona's College of Education and Early Academic Outreach Office, he has participated in a GEAR-UP project aimed at enhancing college preparation, access, and success for local low income, minority populations (particularly Latinos) in Tucson.

Professor Rhoades has worked in the field of higher education for more than twenty-five years. He is widely respected as a meticulous researcher, incisive writer, and engaging lecturer by an international audience. He has given keynote addresses recently to researchers and policymakers in England, Finland, Italy, Japan, and Mexico, and has spoken at the national meetings of groups including the European Association for Institutional Research, the American Educational Research Association, the Society for Social Studies of Science, and the American Sociological Association. Rhoades has worked at the local, regional, and national levels with the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, as well as with the AAUP.

(con't on page 4)

Rhoades Appointed General Secretary (con't)

Rhoades is the former president of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

Professor Rhoades is the author of *Managed Professionals: Unionized Faculty and Restructuring Academic Labor* (SUNY Press, 1998) and *Academic Capitalism and the New Economy* with Sheila Slaughter (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004). He is currently working on two books, one on strategic positioning in higher education and the other on academic unions.

Among his extensive record of journal articles are: "Is Academic Capitalism, U.S. Style, for Japan?" (*Higher Education Forum* 2008); "Local Cosmopolitans and Cosmopolitan Locals: Towards New Models of Professionals in the Academy" with Judy Marquez Kiyama, Rudy McCormick, and Marisol Quiroz (*The Review of Higher Education* 2007); "Technology Enhanced Courses and a Mode III Organization of

Instructional Work" (*Tertiary Education and Management* 2007); "Community College Faculty and Web-Based Classes" with Vernon Smith (*Thought & Action* 2006); "The Higher Education We Choose: A Question of Balance" (*The Review of Higher Education* 2006); and "Graduate Employee Unionization as Symbol of and Challenge to the Corporatization of U.S. Research Universities" with Rob Rhoads (*The Journal of Higher Education* 2005).

Cary Nelson, Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences and professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and president of the AAUP, commented on Gary Rhoades' appointment as AAUP general secretary with these words: "I think Gary is one of the very best people in the country to do this job. His commitment to AAUP values and his knowledge of higher education are impeccable. I am already tremendously enjoying working with him."

AAUP Collective Bargaining (con't)

for both CB and advocacy (non-CB) chapters. The AAUP model for collective bargaining retains decision-making, resources and servicing at the local level. Michigan's CB chapters are all examples of the power of this system which has allowed us over the years to share our expertise and resources with others who lack our membership strength. Michigan leaders have staffed national training workshops at both the premier AAUP training event (Summer Institute) and the December CBC meeting. Our conference and chapter leaders have and will continue to

support the national staff in both organizing and service activities. As benefactors of the foremost "union" state, we shall continue to play a leading role in spreading the benefits of contractual enforcement of AAUP policies and principles to faculties throughout the country. Any member from a CB or advocacy chapter who would like to join us in these efforts should volunteer with your chapter and let the MIAAUP Executive Director, Jeff Lee, or me know of your willingness to work outside your own institution.

Do More Than Just Vote This Year

By Jeffrey Lee, MIAAUP Executive Director

As the November 4 election approaches, each of us needs to consider our roles as citizens and leaders. An election is not merely a moment to cast one's vote. Instead, that vote is a chance for every citizen to have a voice in the direction of the hometown, state and country. That vote can either affirm an incumbent's service and vision; or endorse the new direction of another. Simply said, you are not merely elected an individual; you are choosing the path you want this state and country to follow and the person most likely to lead us successfully down that path.

Therefore, I make the following suggestions to all faculty across Michigan:

Please make sure you vote. Voting is the single most important thing a citizen can do to influence the direction of government.

Please encourage those around you to vote. Whether it is students, family, friends, neighbors or colleagues, remind others to vote. Tuesday afternoon, remind them again.

Educate yourself. Over the past two years, we have been bombarded with information and policy ideas from both Presidential candidates. Some is true. As in every political campaign, some is misleading. Take the time to discover the truth. While you are doing that, please take the opportunity to learn more about the candidates in other races. You will have a United States Senator, Congressman, Michigan Representative, Michigan Supreme Court, lower court, county officials and local officials also on the ballot. All of these offices exert some level of influence over community.

Make sure that what you believe is true and that you vote for the individual who is most likely, in your opinion, to appropriately govern.

Facilitate discussion. In class, most of you undoubtedly encourage your students to share ideas, question one another's opinions and put forth new ideas. In these last two weeks, foster similar discussions with your peers and fellow citizens. Gather your neighbors together to talk about the issues. Write an op-ed in your field of expertise for the local newspaper. Call-in or appear on a talk radio show. However you do it, try to increase the level of substantive debate and democratic participation in this state and country.

Encourage your students to discuss the issues. Obviously, this is not appropriate for all disciplines, but where it is, allow students to openly debate election issues. A short list includes health care access and coverage, stem cell research, the financial bailout, the future of small businesses, international relations, education and government reform. Students, like most Americans, likely hold very passionate opinions on many of these issues. One role as educators is to push students, not merely to become informed, but to use that information – to interpret data objectively and use it to support a position. In such an environment, the debate can focus more on the quality of data, its interpretation and subsequent derived theories and less on the compatibility of data to one's own beliefs.

Volunteer. If time allows, volunteer for a campaign or cause you believe in. These groups always need people.

Stem Cell Research Ballot Proposal

By Adrienne Aluzzo, Wayne State AAUP-AFT

On November 4th voters will have the opportunity to make stem cell research legal and effective in Michigan. The proposal on this year's ballot would end one of the most restrictive stem cell policies in the country, even more restrictive than current federal rules.

What is a Stem Cell?

A stem cell is a generic cell that can make exact copies of itself indefinitely. It also has the ability to produce specialized cells for various tissues in the body, such as heart muscle, brain tissue and liver tissue. Scientists can maintain these stem cells forever, developing them into specialized cells as needed.

There are a variety of diseases and injuries in which a patient's cells or tissues are destroyed and must be replaced by tissue or organ transplants. Stem cells may be able to generate brand new tissue in these cases and even cure diseases for which currently there is no adequate therapy, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, diabetes, spinal cord injury, heart disease, stroke, arthritis, cancer and burns.

Stem cells could also be used to gain a better understanding of how genetics work in the early stages of cell development, helping scientists understand why some cells don't develop normally and lead to birth defects and cancer. Because they can create unlimited amounts of specialized tissue, it may be possible to test how drugs react on these specialized tissues before trying them on animals and human subjects.

The Debate

Michigan law currently makes it a felony to use new embryonic stem cells (those leftover from fertility treatment) for research

into cures for serious diseases. Michigan is only one of five states in the country with such severe restrictions and the penalties for scientists who use stem cells in their research can range up to \$10 million dollars in fines and 10 years in prison.

Supporters of this ban believe that a fertilized egg is fundamentally a human being with rights and interests that need to be protected. They will oppose the ballot proposal on this matter of faith. Supporters of stem cell research argue that the fertilized eggs are surplus donated with consent from each couple under fertility treatment, and would otherwise be discarded. There is no potential for these fertilized eggs to become human beings.

The Proposal

The ballot proposal would allow scientists to conduct embryonic stem cell research using **only** leftover embryos from fertility clinics that would otherwise be discarded as medical waste and only with the written consent of the donors.

All stem cell research and stem cell therapies and cures would be strictly regulated to ensure that state and local laws are obeyed. The sale of embryos would be strictly prohibited and nothing in the ban would affect the current Michigan ban on human cloning.

The passage of this proposal in Michigan would attract and create new jobs in the life sciences. The federal government projects that biotech and pharmaceutical companies will hire 12.5 % more people by 2012. Estimates show that new investments in life sciences within a single state could result in 7,000 new jobs directly related to the biotech industry and 15,000 total new jobs. This would produce an estimated \$307 million more in state revenue.

Here is the proposal as it should appear on the November ballot, according to Dawson Bell of the Detroit Free Press, August 22, 2008.

Proposal 08-2

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ADDRESS HUMAN EMBRYO AND HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH IN MICHIGAN

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Expand use of human embryos for any research permitted under federal law subject to the following limits: the embryos --

- are created for fertility treatment purposes;

- are not suitable for implantation or are in excess of clinical needs;

- would be discarded unless used for research;

- were donated by the person seeking fertility treatment.

- Provide that stem cells cannot be taken from human embryos more than 14 days after cell division begins.

- Prohibit any person from selling or purchasing human embryos for stem cell research.

- Prohibit state and local laws that prevent, restrict or discourage stem cell research, future therapies and cures.

Should this proposal be adopted?-- Yes -- No

For more information on the ballot proposal please go to: Michigan Citizens for Stem Cell Research & Cures: <http://www.stemcellresearchformichigan.com/index.php>, or Cure Michigan: <http://www.curemichigan.com/> and for opposing viewpoints see: Michigan Citizens Against Unrestricted Science and Experimentation: <http://www.curemichigan.com/>.

Higher Education Act Finally Reauthorized

Courtesy of AAUP Government Relations Office

The [Higher Education Act](#) (HEA) has finally been reauthorized, several years behind schedule. The original legislation, passed in 1965, encompasses nearly all of the major higher education laws of the country. The various titles of the legislation cover student financial aid, institutional grants, teacher training programs, accreditation, and international education and study abroad programs, among other items.

The reauthorization, which in this most recent incarnation has been underway for over a year, finally passed out of conference just before the congressional August recess and was signed into law by the president on August 14. The last comprehensive reauthorization was in 1998, and during the past decade maintenance of the programs covered under the Act has relied on a series of temporary provisions.

The bill addresses the 2007 tug-of-war over accreditation rules between the Department of Education and Congress, and affirms the need for institutional diversity of mission. Because of the sharp battles that have recently been waged over accreditation, the finalized legislation divides appointments to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) among the House, the Senate, and the Dept. of Education. Currently, all appointments are made by the Secretary of Education, a process that has been frequently criticized for its politicization.

A number of new reporting requirements, particularly pertaining to college costs and tuition increases, will be required by the bill and a number of new ranking lists and indices comparing different institutions will be created for the Department of Education's website. The Department is also required to make more efforts toward educating students and families about financial aid options, in part by making

information about government programs easier to find online. A proposed database with students' personal and educational information that had been a great concern for civil liberties advocates was ultimately rejected, with language included in the bill that specifically prohibits the creation of such a database.

The HEA reauthorization reiterates a number of provisions aimed at the student loan industry that were passed in separate bills early in 2008. The lending industry has undergone a number of shifts of late, and has been the focus of intensified scrutiny after a number of ethical lapses. Among these were widespread problems with lenders offering incentives and kickbacks to schools and aid counselors who put them on institutional preferred lists for students, and revelations that Secretary Spellings allowed Nelnet to keep \$278 million worth of government subsidies for which it did not qualify.

Title VI, which covers international education, also sees some changes in the reauthorization. As "area studies" programs in particular have been popular targets for partisan politicization amid accusations of ideological bias, an oversight board was originally proposed. That board was not included in the final version of the bill, but institutions applying for grants under Title VI will need to include information about how proposed programs will incorporate diverse viewpoints.

The final sticking point of the bill during conference negotiations was a controversial proposal that would financially penalize states who let higher education funding drop to below the average of the preceding five years. This provision did ultimately get included in the final bill, despite vociferous protest from many state officials.

AAUP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Check Membership category (2008 National Dues):

___ Full-time (\$161) ___ Associate (\$121) ___ Entrant (\$81) ___ Joint (\$81)
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Name: _____

Institution: _____

Preferred mailing address: _____

Daytime Phone: (___) _____ - _____ E-Mail: _____

Tenured: ___ Yes ___ No Academic Rank & Field: _____

Membership Status: ___ New Member ___ Renewal ___ Reinstatement

Note: Membership will extend for twelve months from the month payment is received at the national office.

PAYMENT

Total Dues: _____ National Dues
 + _____ Michigan Conference - \$38
 + _____ Chapter Dues (GVSU, MSU, U-M Ann Arbor - \$10, U-M Flint - \$12)
 = _____ Total Dues Owed

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