

Dear Colleagues in AAUP:

Since its inception nearly ninety years ago, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) chapter at the University of Illinois has maintained a three-pronged mission of education, advocacy, and advising in the areas of academic freedom, tenure, and shared governance. Today we face growing threats to freedom of inquiry and speech, from federal restrictions on research in climate change to the presence on college campuses of national pressure groups like Turning Point USA. These threats are more serious than any we have seen since the days of Senator McCarthy and the loyalty oaths once demanded of all faculty members.

That is why we are launching a **year-long membership drive** whose goal is to double our membership by January 1, 2020, and so ensure the continued health of AAUP on our campus.

Your efforts as a member of the chapter are the key to recruiting new members.

Here is what we ask of you:

1. Identify three faculty members on campus whom you think are sympathetic to the mission of the AAUP to protect and enhance academic freedom, tenure, and faculty governance.
2. Arrange face-to-face meetings with these three people - one in February, the others in March and April.
3. Tell us the names of those three people, so that we can avoid overlap. [Email to: [Laugesen@illinois.edu](mailto:Laugesen@illinois.edu) ]
4. Then we will send you a packet of AAUP materials by campus mail (please tell us the best address to use), so that you have reminders of the activities and statements undertaken by AAUP both locally and nationally, along with a membership form and some discussion points for your face-to-face meetings.
5. For each new member recruited this way, we will reach out with a follow-up conversation to learn about the new member's priorities for AAUP and possible willingness to join one of the working committees.

We realize we are asking you to commit time to this effort. We would not be asking unless it were important.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Thank you, and best regards,

UIUC AAUP Chapter Membership Committee

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