

# WMU-AAUP Bulletin

Western Michigan University Chapter of  
the American Association of University Professors

## Our Union

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### Democratic and Transparent

Our union, the WMU-AAUP, is predicated on the belief that it should be both democratic and transparent. It is based on the principal that the heart of our union is our membership. As opposed to many organizations, it is a “bottom-up” entity. Power emanates from our faculty. The highest decision-making body of our union is the Chapter where our members, as a whole, can set policy for our union as a whole. However, the key to democracy, transparency and participation in our union is the Association Council. This is a body that consists of representatives of the various departments, which helps set real policy for the WMU-AAUP as a whole. It is the connection between the Executive Committee and Officers of the union and the mass of our members. This is the body that makes many of the decisions that affect the lives of our members. It is an all-peer institution, where we jointly make policy decisions and organizational decisions in our own interest. Representatives bring the diverse views of their constituents into our discussions. They then bring back the discussions to our members so everyone can be involved in making policy.

We, on the Executive Committee, are dedicated to making the Association Council a central body for WMU-AAUP functioning. We are contacting all departments to ensure their Representative is able to attend all meetings, and understands all the tasks he or she is being asked to carry out. The Executive Committee has established a Union Orientation Committee to help inform new representatives of their responsibilities. We honor our Association Council Representatives. We know how busy we all are. Our goal is to make Association Council meetings meaningful, informative and participatory. We are open to any suggestions that would facilitate those goals.

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In pursuit of greater transparency and participation, we have revived the College Councils. Those consist of the departments making up the constituencies of the various College Executive Members (for example Arts and Sciences -- Humanities, or Arts and Sciences -- Social Sciences). We hope their periodic discussions and interactions will enrich our discussions on the executive level and make us better able to represent you.

#### Participation and Democracy

In order for us to maximally function, we need your participation. The union doesn't only function during negotiations. We are in the process of strengthening our infrastructure well before negotiations. Many members have written us and asked how they can help and participate in the WMU-AAUP Chapter. We need you. You can be an Association Council Representative. You can run as a member of the Executive Committee. The Chapter has multiple standing committees that are critical to our functioning, or important for negotiations. These include an Online Education Committee, a Salary Equity Committee, a Healthcare Benefits Committee, among others. Meet and discuss with your colleagues in an informal setting. Feel free to send us suggestions or come to Montague house and talk to us.