IN THIS ISSUE

The new UM document on shared governance at UM (p. 1), is a welcome development, although the negotiations point to trouble ahead over cost shedding for faculty health benefits. Articles on the 17th Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture, by ACLU President Nadine Strossen (p. 3), as well as on lectures by Mary Steinhardt and Pat Shaw to our Chapter meetings are included (p. 2). We preview the Chapter’s Annual Meeting below, and highlight the keynote speaker, AAUP President Cary Nelson (right). Tad Smith offers two historical articles, one a homage to our late colleague Wilfred Kaplan (p. 2), and the other on the role played by UM in the founding of the AAUP (p. 3). Jeff Lee’s year-end summary of happenings affecting faculty in Michigan colleges and universities, and a brief sketch of proposed changes to AAUP’s structure are on p. 4.

2008 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Chapter will be held at noon on Wednesday, April 30, in the Michigan Room of the Michigan League. We’ll start with a short business meeting, where the members present will elect the new Chapter Executive Committee. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Professor Cary Nelson of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and national President of the AAUP will give the keynote lecture, “The End of Education: Administrative Power, Shared Governance and Academic Freedom”. Please note that the dinner with the speaker will be held Tuesday, April 29, at 6 PM (see adjacent article). Coffee and tea will be served. This meeting is free and open to the general public.

AAUP PRESIDENT CARY NELSON TO ADDRESS ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 30

Cary Nelson, Professor of English at Illinois, and President since June, 2006, of the national AAUP, will address the Annual Membership Meeting of the UM Chapter this coming April 30 (Wednesday) in the Michigan Room of the Michigan League, at 12 Noon. His topic will be The End of Education: Administrative Power, Shared Governance and Academic Freedom. Some of this topic was touched upon in the excellent talk he gave to the State Conference meeting in Lansing last May, and is very timely here at UM, given that forging agreed and effective guidelines for shared governance have been the subject of intense negotiations between faculty and administration now (see article following).

Nelson has been active in educational reform and faculty issues since the early seventies. He helped organize the AAUP bargaining unit at Urbana-Champaign in the seventies, and a bargaining unit for graduate student instructors in the nineties. As President of the AAUP, Nelson has initiated a series of basic reforms of the association which aim to make it better able to serve a more diverse membership than in the past. These reforms will be voted on at the national AAUP meeting in June, and Professor Nelson has agreed to discuss these in remarks and a Q&A session at the traditional dinner with the speaker. However, due to travel constraints, the dinner will have to be the evening before, April 29, at 6 PM, in the Earle Restaurant, 121 West Washington in Ann Arbor. All interested UM AAUP members are urged to attend the dinner to find out more about the AAUP reforms. Guests are welcome. Please RSVP to Dan Burns, 272-1714 or dburns@umich.edu.

Nelson’s academic interests include modern American poetry (he is the editor of The Oxford Anthology of Modern American Poetry) and the literary and documentary legacy of the Spanish Civil War.
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Chapter sponsored three major addresses since the last newsletter: Professor Mary Steinhardt, kinesiology professor and chair of the Faculty Grievance Committee at the University of Texas at Austin, spoke at last May’s Annual Chapter Meeting on faculty grievance procedures and what UT had done lately to improve them. Professor Nadine Strossen, NYU law professor and long-time President of the ACLU, gave the Davis, Markert, Nickerson Academic and Intellectual Freedom Lecture in November, on “Defending Freedom: Even for the Thoughts We Hate”. Pat Shaw, AAUP labor lawyer, spoke at the Fall Chapter meeting on contingent faculty and faculty organization in December.

The Chapter is seeking to increase membership in the AAUP, and sought to meet new faculty at the annual new faculty reception last August.

Chapter members are extensively involved in faculty governance. These currently include the chair of SACUA, the secretary of the faculty and chairs of two other Senate Advisory Committees.

PRINCIPLES OF SHARED GOVERNANCE APPROVED

John Lehman

At its 17 March meeting, the University of Michigan Senate Assembly approved a landmark second edition of Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional and Academic Unit Governance at the University of Michigan that includes substantial strengthening of the section dealing with faculty participation in institutional governance. The document, signed jointly by faculty chair Charles B. Smith and Teresa A. Sullivan, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, culminates over three years of effort by members of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) to articulate and codify a set of criteria for engaging faculty with decision-making about issues that transcend individual units.

The principles are based on Chapters IV and V of the University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, and are consistent with the recommendations for the government of colleges and universities as set forth by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges and the American Association of University Professors (AAUP Policy Documents & Reports, 10th ed., 2006).

Some executive officers opposed

Most of the language in the Second Edition was developed in amiable discussions between a Task Force named by SACUA and the Office of the Provost. One sticking point developed, however, that stalled progress for months at the document’s penultimate stage. That issue was whether the central administration should recognize a responsibility to consult with elected representatives of the faculty about significant expenditures in areas other than those identified with traditional faculty interests (e.g., instruction, research, student admissions, faculty status), as well as about decisions that affect institutional reputation or public perception. In particular, the faculty task force and SACUA members argued that the document should specify the need for consultation regarding important changes in employee benefits. They were told that unnamed members within the executive officers would not agree to such a stipulation.

Compromise found for now

Ultimately, the impasse was resolved with a statement that essentially postponed the issue for the moment: As appropriate, and when circumstances permit, administrators will make a good-faith effort to inform and seek the input of faculty representatives with the understanding that what constitutes a significant concern is a matter on which reasonable minds may differ.

This experience has alerted SACUA to the prospect that faculty and staff benefits may be looming as a target for cost-shifting, and that vigilance is required. The topic of elected faculty representation on committees charged with providing benefits policy advice is likely to become prominent in the coming year.

The full text of the revised document on shared governance is available online at http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/Principles03-08.pdf.

Visit the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor AAUP Chapter Web Page: http://www.umich.edu/~aaupum

Wilfred Kaplan


See the reminiscence by Tad Smith, p. 2
WILFRED KAPLAN (1915-2007) AND THE AAUP AT MICHIGAN

Charles B. Smith

Over a span of more than sixty years, University of Michigan mathematics professor Wilfred Kaplan became more closely associated with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and with the involvement of faculty in university governance than any other professor in Ann Arbor before or since that time. After receiving a Ph.D. in mathematics from Harvard in 1939 and teaching for one year at the College of William and Mary, Wilfred came to the University of Michigan in 1940; and in 1946 he was elected to membership in the University of Michigan Chapter of the AAUP.

In 1960 the State of California adopted “The California Master Plan for Higher Education,” and soon after many states moved to begin work on similar projects. Wilfred’s intensive involvement with faculty governance at the University started about the time that the State of Michigan began to develop its first “Master Plan” for higher education. Wilfred had not had much prior exposure to faculty governance, but the minutes of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) noted that in October, 1965, William Haber, Dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA), asked Wilfred “to collect data from various faculty members regarding the pros and cons of the trimester system.” This involvement in governance was expanded when, according to SACUA minutes from January 5, 1967, “in response to a letter from Vice President [for Academic Affairs Allen F.] Smith requesting that SACUA select a member from the University to serve on the Faculty Advisory Committee for preparation of a state plan for higher education, SACUA approved Professor Wilfred Kaplan for this assignment. SACUA decided that Wilfred Kaplan should be asked to address the Senate Assembly at a future meeting regarding the activities of the Faculty Advisory Committee, and that he should be invited to attend the SACUA meeting of January 30 for similar discussion.”

According to Michigan AAUP Chapter minutes, the Faculty Advisory Committee for Higher Education was established in early 1967 with twenty-three representatives from twenty-three colleges and universities with Harold T. Smith of the Upjohn Foundation as its chair. This Committee published its “Master Plan” in September, 1968, in a report entitled “State Plan for Higher Education in Michigan (Provisional).” Based on the Work of Dr. Harold T. Smith, Michigan State Department of Education, Lansing.” SACUA’s choice of Wilfred for the “Master Plan” committee was logical since in 1964 he had become chair of the Conference of AAUP State Chapters Committee on the Organization of Higher Education in Michigan. AAUP Chapter minutes from 1966 list “Wilfred Kaplan, (as a member of the) Conference Committee on Co-ordination of Higher Education in Michigan (Math).” For the Fall Chapter meeting in 1966 Wilfred organized and moderated a presentation of candidates for the State Board of Education. The minutes of the Chapter meeting of January 10, 1967, state that, as the Chapter’s representative to the Faculty Advisory Group to the State Board of Education, Wilfred reported on a meeting that he had attended. At the Chapter’s Annual Meeting in April, 1967. Wilfred delivered a keynote address entitled “The State Plan for Higher Education.” Also in 1967 there was concern in Ann Arbor about the state legislature’s funding of higher education which led the Senate Assembly to adopt a resolution that the Regents should “institute appropriate legal action to challenge those unconstitutional provisions of the Appropriations Act in court.” In a 1968 letter to journalism professor William Porter, Wilfred wrote “In the last four years, I have had considerable experience, through the Michigan Conference of AAUP, in the area of relationships between colleges and universities and state government, especially the Legislature and the State Board of Education.” The topic of the Chapter’s 1968 Annual Meeting (April 18, 1968) was “How Can We Improve University-Legislative Relations?” Wilfred’s interest in relations between the colleges and universities and state government persisted throughout the remainder of his lifetime. For years he testified, as chair of the Conference’s Committee on Government and Public Relations, Committee T, before the Michigan State Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education as the representative of the State AAUP Conference.

Wilfred held many offices in the AAUP. From 1966 to 1968 he was Vice-President of the Michigan Conference and President from 1968 to 1970. From 1978 to 1985 he was Secretary of the Conference, and he remained on the Conference Executive Board as a Member-at-large from 1988 to 1990. Wilfred served as President of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Chapter during the 1978-79 academic year and again during the 1984-85 academic year. At the 1985 Annual Chapter meeting the position of Executive Secretary was created, and Wilfred held that post from 1986 to 2001. He also served on the AAUP National Council from 1972 to 1975.

In addition to his interest in relationships between the University and state government, Wilfred was extensively involved in other areas that included the organization of faculty and graduate students into collective bargaining units, benefits for retirees, strengthening the role of elected faculty in university governance, and the involvement of elected faculty in setting the University calendar. Starting in the early 1970’s Wilfred helped the University’s graduate student instructors establish the Graduate Employees’ Organization, which in 1977 became the second such labor union to be established in the country. He also served on SACUA from 1975 to 1978 and was Vice-Chair during the 1977-78 academic year. He often spoke proudly of his assistance with the founding of AAUP collective bargaining units at Wayne State University, Eastern Michigan University and many other universities in the State of Michigan. Wilfred had a major role in shaping the University of Michigan Retirees’ Association when in 1996 it became the successor to the University of Michigan Annuitants’ Association. For some years he represented that group on the Senate Assembly. In 1990 Wilfred led the Michigan Conference to create The Professors’ Fund For Educational Issues, Inc. (PFEI), a Sec. 501 (c) (3) corporation established by faculty members for faculty members to raise tax-deductible contributions for grants for worthwhile
projects developed by members of the professoriate. PFEI was copied by other AAUP conferences, and Wilfred was a staunch advocate of the PFEI approach to handling charitable donations to the AAUP. Wilfred was a tireless worker for and generous contributor to the AAUP, efforts for which he sought no reward.

From 1946 through the mid-1950’s, when Wilfred was a young faculty member, a frequent topic of discussion at AAUP Chapter meetings in Ann Arbor was the infiltration of higher education by “communists” and their sympathizers. This discussion seemed to intensify when English professor Harlan Hatcher came to the campus from Ohio State University as the University’s eighth president in 1951. This conversation reached a peak when in 1954 the new president fired two faculty members, one with tenure, because he felt that they were not “sufficiently opposed ideologically to the Communist Party.” One of those fired was H. Chandler Davis, a young mathematics instructor, and for that firing and the firing of tenured pharmacology associate professor Mark Nickerson, the national AAUP placed the University of Michigan on its list of censured colleges and universities in 1958. In subsequent years Wilfred was determined that the University should make a significant gesture of reconciliation to the two faculty members who were fired and one assistant professor, who was reinstated after his dismissal.

An undergraduate English major, Adam E. Kulakow, came to Wilfred in 1988 because he wanted to make a video for his honors dissertation on the “McCarthy Era” and the University of Michigan. Over the years Wilfred had maintained contact with H. Chandler Davis and Mark Nickerson, as well as with Clement A. Markert, who in 1954 had been suspended and then reinstated as an assistant professor of biology by President Hatcher. Wilfred contacted his former colleagues and arranged for Kulakow to meet with them. In addition, Wilfred arranged a grant from the AAUP to support this ambitious project. Kulakow’s video, “Keeping in Mind: The McCarthy Era at the University of Michigan,” was presented at two public meetings in 1989, and the three former faculty members were present at the first of these. Subsequently, Chapter President and Associate Professor of German Mary C. Crichton wrote to SACUA in October, 1989, on behalf of the Chapter and requested that SACUA and the Senate Assembly ask the university administration and the Board of Regents to make a gesture of reconciliation. SACUA did make this request, which was declined by both parties, and the end result was a Senate Assembly resolution in 1990 that established the University of Michigan Senate’s Annual DAVIS, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom. At the same time the Senate Assembly established the Academic Freedom Lecture Fund as a means of funding the lecture series. Wilfred was asked to draft a constitution for the Academic Freedom Lecture Fund which was approved by SACUA in May, 1991. The first annual meeting of the Fund was held on February 2, 1992, at which time Wilfred was elected to the Board of Directors, a position to which he was reelected every three years until the time of his death on December 26, 2007.

The faculty of the University of Michigan in 1986 recognized Wilfred’s numerous contributions to faculty governance when they selected him to be co-recipient of the first University of Michigan Distinguished Faculty Governance Award. The local, state and national AAUP will forever be in Wilfred’s debt for the many contributions that he made to higher education and to the professoriate.

Charles B. Smith is a professor in Pharmacology, Chair of SACUA and Chapter secretary.

**ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING: MARY STEINHARDT ON FACULTY GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

Mary Steinhardt, Professor of Kinesiology and Health Science, and Chair of the Faculty Grievance Committee at the University of Texas at Austin, spoke on recent developments in faculty grievance procedures at UT. After a long stand off between faculty and administration, a more rigorous procedure is being introduced which guarantees faculty input. It does not yet guarantee a forum with binding decisions independent of the administrative hierarchy, however. Texas is just now introducing an ombudsperson for faculty grievances as well. Results so far are encouraging, but the reforms are still very new. The comparisons with UM were discussed in the Q&A period: UM has an ombudsperson, but grievances still pass through channels which allow respondent administrators review, and overturn, decisions. This is an issue of continuing concern to the Chapter. The Provost’s Office and SACUA co-sponsored.

**FALL CHAPTER MEETING: PAT SHAW ON CONTINGENT FACULTY**

AAUP lawyer and associate director Pat Shaw spoke on “Are Contingent Faculty Really “Faculty” and Is It Important?” -- a cheeky title meant to stir discussion. Pat discussed the quality of life and service within the profession and the connection to faculty organization. He did not advocate exclusively for any one form of organization, such as unionization, but indicated a variety of paradigms by examples. . The discussion was open to the public, and in particular we were joined by some colleagues from the UM Lecturers’ Employees’ Organization (LEO), which had just concluded its second contract with UM for faculty on the Lecturer track. Ian Robinson spoke after Shaw as a representative for LEO, and an interesting discussion of the current status of various types of non-tenure-track faculty at UM ensued. The event was co-sponsored by SACUA.
NADINE STROSSEN: DAVIS, MARKERT, NICKERSON LECTURER

Peggie J. Hollingsworth

Nadine Strossen, President of the American Civil Liberties Union and Professor of Law at the New York University Law School delivered the Seventeenth Annual University of Michigan Senate’s Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom. Her lecture, entitled “Defending Freedom: Even for the Thoughts We Hate” was delivered to an audience of faculty, students, administrators and members of the community on November 9, 2007, in the Honigman Auditorium of the University of Michigan Law School. Professor Strossen was introduced to an audience that filled the auditorium by Paul N. Courant, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries.

Strossen began her lecture by observing that “many government officials and members of the public have maintained for the past six years that we are now living in a new, post 9-11 world (hardly a brave, new world, I might add) in which all freedoms, including First Amendment freedoms, are said to be luxuries we can no longer afford.” She added that “ever since the advent of the Internet there have been political and public pressures to curb expression because of the allegedly unique dangers that this new medium is said to pose.” She continued “now let me briefly explain why speech can’t be suppressed based on intangible harm such as hurt feelings. That cardinal free speech rule does not at all reflect disrespect for the seriousness of these psychic or emotional harms. Contrary to the old nursery rhyme, sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me, that is wrong. Words do wound, especially when they assault some poor element of our identity, including matters such as race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and so forth. The reason we do not let government suppress speech to prevent these very real psychic or emotional harms is well summed up by another old presentation and so forth. The reason we do not let government suppress speech to prevent these very real psychic or emotional harms is well summed up by another old saying, the cure is worse than the disease. Both for society as a whole and individuals, having to hear offensive and upsetting expression is the lesser of two evils. Far worse is empowering the government or a majority of our citizens to take away our freedom to make our own choices about what we see and what hear and what we say.”

The Regents of the University of Michigan at their May, 2005 meeting established the Davis, Markert, Nickerson Visiting Professorship on Academic and Intellectual Freedom. The hope of many is that when possible the visiting professor will deliver the annual lecture in addition to meeting with faculty and students. Progress now is being made toward the adoption of a research scientist in Environmental and Industrial Health, and president of the Academic Freedom Lecture Fund.

The full lecture, in streaming video, is available at http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/AFL/afllecture.html. One will also find here the history of the Lecture and the background history of the McCarthy era at the University of Michigan.

Peggie Hollingsworth is a research scientist in Environmental and Industrial Health, and president of the Academic Freedom Lecture Fund.

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KATRINA FALLOUT: AAUP CENSURES

At last year’s State Conference meeting, Cary Nelson, national AAUP President, pointed out that shared governance was jettisoned wholesale in the New Orleans area in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, including firing without prior notice of tenured professors. The Universities’ financial records did not support their claim of fiscal necessity. As a result, the AAUP placed five New Orleans Universities under censure at the June, 2007, meeting. The AAUP report is available online at http://www.aaup.org, along with updates, and in issues of Academe from last fall.
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND THE FOUNDING OF THE AAUP

Charles B. Smith

The following is a historical review of the role played by the University of Michigan in the formation of the AAUP over 90 years ago.

In the spring of 1913 professors at Johns Hopkins University decided to invite colleagues from nine other universities to a meeting to consider the formation of a national association of professors. At that meeting, held in Baltimore on November 17, 1913, a decision was made to form an Organizing Committee, comprised of leading scholars from a variety of academic fields, to draft a proposal for the association, identify its general purposes, schedule an initial meeting, and extend invitations to join the association to professors from the nation’s leading institutions of higher education. University of Michigan professor William Herbert Hobbs (1864-1953), who represented the field of geology, was one of the 34 members of the Organizing Committee, chaired by Columbia University philosophy professor John Dewey. The Organizing Committee issued its report and recommendations in November, 1914.

In response to the report of the Organizing Committee, over two hundred and fifty professors gathered in the auditorium of the Chemists Club in New York City on January 1 and 2, 1915, where they elected Professor Dewey as their permanent chair and endorsed a motion to proceed to the organization of the Association. The first to speak in support of the motion was physics professor Karl Eugen Guthe (1866-1915) from the University of Michigan. In 1911 the University of Michigan had established its Graduate Department with Professor Guthe as its first dean. The new Association took as its name the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). University of Michigan English professor John Strong Perry Tatlock (1876-1948) chaired the nominating committee that selected Professor Dewey as President and Johns Hopkins University philosophy professor Arthur O. Lovejoy as Secretary. Michigan’s Professor Hobbs also served on the nominating committee. The nominating committee at the initial meeting of the Association selected a 28-member governing Council (the new Constitution provided for 30 members), and Professor Hobbs became a member of the first AAUP Council and of a 7-member Executive Committee “with power to make nominations for the committees of the Association, to prepare questions for submission to the Council, to make recommendations upon these questions, and to take provisional action in urgent cases, subject to confirmation by the Council.”

During 1915 the Council established a number of committees to conduct the business of the AAUP. University of Michigan philosophy professor Robert Mark Wenley (1861-1929) was appointed to three of those committees, Methods of Appointment and Promotion – Committee B, Organization of Local Chapters or Groups – Committee F, and University Ethics – Committee I, which he chaired. Other professors from Michigan who were appointed to committees, were Fred N. Scott (1860-1931), Professor of Rhetoric and Journalism, Limits of Standardization of Institutions - Committee D; Francis W. Kelsey (1858-1927, appointed Professor and Chair of Latin Language and Literature in 1889), Desirability and Practicality of Increased Migration and Interchange of Graduate Students – Committee H; and William Joseph Hussey (1862-1926), Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Detroit Observatory, as an Honorary Member of Cooperation with Latin American Universities to Promote Exchange Professorships and Fellowships – Committee L.

Early in 1916 the AAUP published a list of charter members, namely those who had been elected to membership during the first year of the Association. Neither Professor Guthe nor Professor Tatlock appears among the 31 charter members from the University of Michigan since in 1915 Professor Guthe died and Professor Tatlock moved to Stanford University.

At its initial meeting members of the AAUP were divided with respect to the desirability of local and regional organizations, and the decision whether to create chapters was postponed and referred to Committee F. The Council decided to recommend to the delegates at the December 1915 national meeting “that local groups be invited to meet and work as Chapters this year (1916).” In the March 1916 edition of the Bulletin of the American Association of University Professors President John H. Wigmore and Secretary W. Tyler included a letter inviting members to form local chapters. The University of Michigan was one of the 32 chapters established in response to the invitation, and the sites of the first chapters were published in the May 1916 issue of the Bulletin. Professor Wenley was listed in the Bulletin as Michigan’s chapter chairman and Professor Hugo P. Thieme (1870-1940) as chapter secretary. These chapters, however, were not authorized by the AAUP Constitution.

The above information comes from volumes I and II of the Bulletin of the American Association of University Professors (1915-1916).
**MICHIGAN CONFERENCE REPORT**

**Jeffrey Lee**

Over the past year, the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor (UMAA) Chapter has been very involved in the activities and decisions of the Michigan Conference of the AAUP. At the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Conference, University of Michigan Provost Teresa Sullivan gave the keynote address on the need for a robust shared governance system. Her appearance, in part, was secured by her strong working relationship with Charles B. Smith in his role as the Chair of SACUA and the faculty. Ms. Sullivan’s remarks in favor of a strong faculty role in governance were well received by the meeting attendees. She then participated in a panel forum along with former Oakland President Sandra Packard and Eastern Michigan University Regent Gary Hawks. Questions flowed and many later commented on the quality of the discussion.

In Sullivan’s former position of Provost at the University of Texas at Austin, she encouraged a revision of the U-T grievance system. That revision was so well received that one of the proponents, Professor Mary Steinhardt, was asked to speak on the topic at the 2007 UMAA Annual Meeting. In the months since, several Michigan AAUP chapters have called the UMAA leadership for assistance in rethinking their grievance procedures. These groups have found that, in general, without a grievance and arbitration system detailed in a collective bargaining contract, faculty have little effective recourse for formal complaints. The major problem, a symptom U-M still shares with these concerned chapters, is that hearing decisions are not binding and are, in fact, often overturned by deans, the provost or the president. The current system is stacked against a wronged faculty member. It is a system AAUP and SACUA are working to change.

The Michigan Conference lost two champions over the past year. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, Wilfred Kaplan passed away on December 26, 2007. Wilfred was an AAUP member for over 60 years. Many of the rights each of you enjoy are because of Wilfred’s tireless efforts. He served as Conference President from 1968-1970 in addition to a variety of other offices including many years as the chair of the government relations committee. In 1990, Wilfred pushed for the creation of the Professors’ Fund for Educational Issues (PFEI) as a funding support mechanism for faculty who wish to work on behalf of their colleagues and the profession as a whole. Since its inception, PFEI has disbursed over $12,000 in grants and scholarships.

On January 13, 2008, former MIAAUP Executive Director Robert Grosvenor passed away. For 15 years, Bob lent his expertise to forward the efforts of the conference. Bob was a frequent visitor to the University of Michigan campus, participating in the executive committee meetings of the Ann Arbor chapter. Similarly, he worked to strengthen and expand the chapters on the Flint and Dearborn campuses. No matter where a faculty member taught, from Ann Arbor to Grand Rapids to Holland, Bob Grosvenor was a friend and a strong defender of his/her rights.

Finally, please congratulate Charles B. Smith on his election to the Vice Presidency of the Michigan Conference. Anyone who follows faculty affairs knows of his commitment to the advancement of faculty rights and governance. He is concluding a second term as SACUA chair and we, at the conference level, look forward to his upcoming contributions.

*Jeff Lee is Executive Director of the Michigan Conference of the AAUP.*

**PROPOSED STRUCTURAL REFORMS OF AAUP TO BE VOTED ON AT NATIONAL MEETING**

**Dan Burns**

A fundamental restructuring of AAUP has been proposed by the national leadership. This is driven by multiple motivations, mostly of a legal nature as to what the Association can and cannot due under its current 501(c)(3) tax status. First, the AAUP demographics have changed dramatically in that the majority of the membership are now in collective bargaining units, and already pursue their interests through the Collective Bargaining Congress of AAUP. The current AAUP is limited in how much it can legally lobby for the interests of professors. The proposed reorganization amounts to creating three parallel legal structures under one umbrella organization. One would be a professional association form of the AAUP. The UM Chapter has always been of this type, but the reorganization would allow this professional organization to lobby on behalf of its members. Another component would be a charitable organization branch, which could continue to collect tax-deductible charitable contributions for the kind of general societal benefits the AAUP has always funded. Finally, the third component would house the union activities necessary for the collective bargaining units. For some members, this proposal is a cause of anxiety, as it is not clear where the organization’s main thrust will wind up in the future. Many local representatives are opposed to the changes. These changes are scheduled to be voted upon at the national AAUP meeting in Washington, DC, June 12-15. In principle, all members should have received an email from president Cary Nelson about the proposed changes in December. If you want to learn more about the changes, most of the arguments for the proposals can be found at the AAUP website: [http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/Restruct/](http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/Restruct/), or come to the Chapter’s Annual Meeting speaker’s dinner, Tuesday, April 29, at 6 PM (see p. 1 above). Information on the national meeting can be found here: [http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/about/events/AM/](http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/about/events/AM/).

*Dan Burns is a professor in Mathematics, and Chapter president.*