

IU Bloomington AAUP Spring Chapter Meeting

April 9, 4:00-5:30, Maurer School of Law, Faculty Lounge

Welcome to all members and prospective members!

Today's meeting will include short updates on recent chapter activities and plans for moving forward. But the chief objective is to hear your views on what we all need to do to protect academic freedom, strengthen shared governance, and promote the well-being of academic professionals on campus. Alex Tanford, IUB-AAUP President, will be chair and moderator.

SOME IUB-AAUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS, 2024-2025

Rather than spending time on an oral report of executive committee and chapter activities over the last year, we instead outline some of them here.

Growth in Membership: Since August 2023, our membership has grown from approximately 70 members to 155. Among other things, recruitment efforts have included creating flyers and hosting AAUP tables at events such as IU's New Faculty Orientation meetings and many other events listed below. We began an issues campaign, "Defending Academic Freedom and Job Security," and established a new Membership Subcommittee to implement the membership campaign. The chapter also sent two teams to participate in 12-hour long AAUP-sponsored Skills to Win workshops to receive training in recruitment and organization (Nov 2024 and Feb 2025).

Building Infrastructure: Continuing to build infrastructure is essential to pursuing our mission. Over the last year, this work has included revising and expanding the [chapter's website](#). We created new sections and wrote materials to explain the mission, history, and work of the AAUP and our chapter as well as to encourage people to join.

Over the last year, new standing **committees**—such as the Membership Committee and the Committee on the Economics of the Faculty (re-established after a forty-year lapse)—and ad hoc committees responsible for many of the activities listed below were established. We also proposed revisions to the [chapter bylaws](#) (adopted through online membership vote in April 2024) and instituted an online elections process (May 2024).

To establish a firmer **financial** footing, we filed articles of incorporation to establish the chapter as a non-profit corporation in Indiana and instituted a new banking structure for our chapter (spring 2025). In May 2024, we proposed to the national AAUP and AFT Local 6741 leaderships that advocacy chapters such as ours receive a portion of the dues paid by chapter members; as a result, a "dues-back program" has been restored after 20-year lapse.

In 2024-2025, chapter officers have **worked with the leadership of the national AAUP and the Indiana State Conference**, including by playing an active role in many dozens of their meetings. The chapter subsidized a representative from our chapter to participate in the national AAUP meeting in D.C.

Committee A: The role of the [Committee on Academic Freedom](#) is to protect academic freedom and ensure the integrity of due process in academic personnel actions. We have enlarged Committee A so its members have been better able to respond to numerous colleagues, providing them guidance, support, and representation.

Events: To provide spaces for dialogue, interaction, and socializing for members and not-yet-members of the chapter, we've held both in-person and Zoom chapter meetings each semester; and last summer we hosted a picnic. Some other events included:

- * Co-sponsorship of "[Samia Halaby Uncancelled](#)" at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater (Feb 2024)
- * Co-sponsorship of the "[State Conference AAUP Forum on SB202](#)" with area legislators (Feb 2024)
- * The AAUP Fall Forum on "[Defending Academic Freedom and Job Security](#)" (Oct 2024)
- * Co-sponsored Forum Discussion with BFC president elect candidates (Apr 2025)

Statements and Reports:

- * Issued public [statement](#) on the sanctioning of AK Sinno (Jan 2024, following a 12/29/2023 letter to the VPFAA)
- * Published chapter's [AAUP Spring Report](#), with articles on IU's Crane partnership and on the cases of Sinno and the cancelled Halaby exhibit (Jan 2024)
- * Issued [Joint statement on SB202](#) with Purdue-West Lafayette AAUP chapter (Feb 2024) and coordinated with IU Government Relations, making joint statement the basis of IU's position; joined a statewide lobbying effort coordinated by State Conference
- * Provided detailed [analysis and response](#) to Dunn Meadow attacks within hours (April 2024)
- * Provided feedback for and, subsequently signed, the [National AAUP letter](#) on campus protests and free speech (April 2024)
- * Coordinated multi-campus IU chapter [UA-10 draft response](#) and issued [IUB-specific response](#) (July 2024)
- * Sent letter to three Board of Trustee members urging 'No' vote on UA-10 (Aug 2024; final vote: 6-3)
- * Issued [Statement on Academic Boycotts](#) (Aug 2024)
- * Published chapter's [AAUP Fall Report](#), with articles on the legal status of academic personnel policies, UA-10, and corporatization (Oct 2024)
- * Initiated public poster campaign on campus and [online series](#) on UA-10 (Sept - Nov 2024)
- * Sent [Questions to Provost](#) on handling of plagiarism allegations against Pres. Whitten (Jan 2024)
- * Sent [Letter to Provost](#) on termination of Prof. Xiaofeng Wang without due process (March 2025)

Ongoing current activities include:

- * Contracting with Prof. Howard Bunsis for an external audit of IU's budget and expenditures (expected late April 2025). A fundraising drive for the Bunsis audit already has attracted over \$5000 in donation pledges.
- * Reviving the former Executive Committee practice of endorsing BFC nominees supportive of AAUP mission (Spring 2025)

To learn about other activities, please see the website, where we'll also post information about upcoming activities. If you have questions or suggestions, please write to us at iubaaup@iu.edu.

IUB-AAUP Website: <https://aaup.sitehost.iu.edu/>

To see this handout with live links, visit
https://aaup.sitehost.iu.edu/reports/Spring25_Handout.pdf