

# VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

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<http://www.aaup-va.org>

Editor: Kay K. Jordan, [kjordan@radford.edu](mailto:kjordan@radford.edu)

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## **Plans Underway for the Eighth Annual Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day**

Faculty members from across the commonwealth will return to Richmond on January 14, 2010, to participate in Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day (VHEAD). The “long” session will be notable as a new governor, attorney general, twenty delegates and two senators take office. The main work of the session will be to approve a new biennial budget.

The first VHEAD was held in 2003, under the State AAUP presidency of VCU professor Christina Turner. Current state AAUP President Pat Cummins, also at VCU, has been instrumental in organizing the event since the beginning. Over the years we have pushed for responsible budgeting for higher education, raised legislative awareness regarding salaries, benefits, and retirement, and have resisted efforts to interfere in core areas of our professional responsibilities. Most importantly, we have made our legislators aware that we *exist* and we are organized. VHEAD is made possible by collaboration between the Virginia AAUP, the Faculty Senate of Virginia, the Faculty Senate of VCU, and the VCU chapter of the AAUP.

This session we will certainly be advocating for a serious commitment from our elected representatives to fund higher education. This will be a difficult challenge given the economic context, but we must make the argument as clearly and coherently as possible. We will also be making the case for appropriate funding of the Virginia Retirement System. And, look for a legislative initiative regarding the growing salary gap between top administrators and faculty.

Please plan to join us in Richmond January 14, 2010! For details, contact Brian Turner at [bturner@rmc.edu](mailto:bturner@rmc.edu).

*(See Schedule for Virginia Higher Education Day on page 2)*

# Higher Education Advocacy Day

January 14, 2010

## Tentative Schedule of Activities

Feel free to contact the VCU organizers. Pat Cummins' e-mail address is [pcummins@vcu.edu](mailto:pcummins@vcu.edu), her cell phone is (804) 536-0429, and her home phone is (804) 893-3490. Bob Andrews' e-mail address is [rlandrew@vcu.edu](mailto:rlandrew@vcu.edu) and his cell phone is 804-512-9681.

**WHERE TO MEET. SCHOOL OF NURSING BUILDING 1100 Leigh Street** Important links:

Driving directions to the MCV Campus:

<http://www.maps.vcu.edu/mcv/directions.html>

Visitor parking on MCV campus:

<http://www.maps.vcu.edu/mcv/esdeck/>

The location of the Lyons Building:

<http://www.maps.vcu.edu/mcv/nursingbldg/index.html>

**WHERE TO PARK.** Parking is readily available in public lots throughout downtown. The closest to the School of Nursing is public parking on Eighth Street and Leigh Street. The link above also leads you to the patient parking area on 12<sup>th</sup> Street

- 9:00 A.M. Coffee available at VCU School of Nursing Student Lounge (Basement of the Lyons Building)
- 9:15 A.M. Welcome by VCU Faculty Senate President, AAUP President, and FSVA President (School of Nursing Student Lounge)
- Daniel LaVista (SCHEV Director) information on SCHEV priorities
- Legislative updates
- 9:45 A.M. Distribution of promotional materials (Sch. of Nursing Student Lounge)
- 10:00 A.M. Visits to legislative offices (Capitol complex – 4 blocks from Nursing)
- 12:00 Noon Light lunch available (Sch. of Nursing Student Lounge)
- 1:00 P.M. Visits to legislative offices
- 4:30 P.M. End of visits

*Information on legislative offices to visit will be available when you arrive.*

## **Vote of No Confidence in the Provost Passes by a Landslide at RU**

By Kay K. Jordan

On October 22, 2009, the Radford University Faculty Senate passed a vote of no confidence in Provost Wilbur Stanton. The 29 to 16 vote meant more than sixty-four per cent of the senators voted for the motion of no confidence. This vote came after two and a half years of RU administration actions which faculty perceived to be violations of shared governance. For example, in fall 2007, Stanton failed to communicate to the Radford University Board of Visitors the critical role faculty must play in shaping the curriculum at time the Board demanded the university develop and implement a new general education program for fall 2008. Instead, he side-stepped the appropriate faculty internal governance committee by appointing a handpicked ad hoc committee to design the new curriculum. Only after the faculty subsequently rejected this curriculum did Stanton refer it to the General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee. In addition, Stanton repeatedly made other dramatic changes involving curricular implications without consulting the faculty. In spring 2007, he divided the College of Arts and Sciences with little faculty consultation. Then, again, in January 2009, he moved programs from one college to another and merged departments without consulting the affected faculty. In spring 2009, Provost Stanton suddenly instituted an expedited program review of selected departments which utilized **150%** of State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) standards mandated for enrolled majors and graduates. And, then, when pressed by faculty and student criticism, he declared that this special review was unrelated to the current budgetary crisis.

The RU Faculty Senate ultimately created an Ad Hoc Investigative Committee (April 2009) to address allegations regarding violations of the university's core values, internal governance procedures, and code of ethics. The vote of no confidence in the provost came three weeks after the committee delivered its report.

Radford University President Penelope W. Kyle met with the Faculty Senate on November 10 to gain a better understanding of faculty discontent. The RU faculty anxiously await her decision regarding the provost.

### **Electronic Balloting in 2010**

Early in 2009 AAUP General Secretary Gary Rhoades launched an initiative to hold elections by electronic ballot, and it was a huge success! The association saved both financial and human resources, voter turnout increased, and we corrected our e-mail lists. The Assembly of State Conferences (ASC) of the AAUP has now established guidelines for those state conferences that wish to hold their 2010 elections by electronic ballot in tandem with the national election. Virginia will be participating!

The ballot is secret and voting is secure, and the conduct of the election is much easier for you and for the conference. In 2009 the Virginia Conference spent \$637.42 on the state election. Participating in electronic balloting in tandem with the national election will cost the Conference nothing! Members who wish to receive a paper ballot will be able to request one from the National office.

In Virginia, we will be electing a new President-elect, Secretary, and three members of the Executive Committee, all to serve two year terms; and two members and two alternates as delegates to the ASC meeting on June 11, 2010. National AAUP elections will be for President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and for ten at-large seats to the National Council. Candidates for national office are listed at <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/about/bus/09nomcom.htm>. You should receive your electronic ballot between March 3 and 8. Ballots must be returned by April 15, 2010.

## **SCHEV Director Joseph De Felippo on Higher Education and Budget Crises**

Dr. Joseph De Felippo, Director of Academic Affairs of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia was the featured speaker at the fall meeting of the Virginia Conference of the AAUP, held at Radford University on October 24, 2009. Since December 2006, Dr. De Felippo has been responsible for academic activities in the Virginia public higher education system including institutional program approval, transfer and articulation, student competency assessments, changes of mission statement, and new instructional sites. In his October talk, he shared his perspective concerning the general impact of fiscal crises on institutions of higher education based on his experiences dealing with financial crises both as a faculty member in 1993 at the University of North Dakota and subsequently as an administrator in the central office of the State University of New York system after 911. His key points were:

1. In times of economic crisis presidents try to grow enrollments and introduce new programs to gain additional revenue. Unfortunately, this undercuts future arguments for higher funding from state legislatures because it shows universities can do more with less.
2. In times of economic crisis, universities tend to hire more contingent faculty to increase enrollment or add new programs. This endangers faculty governance in that contingent faculty do not have the protection of tenure and reduces the faculty's role in affecting a university's decisions and efforts to recover from an economic downturn.
3. Top down decision making during an economic downturn does not work. Both current and future planning requires real faculty involvement.

The talk turned into friendly conversation between Dr. De Felippo and AAUP members. Ray Jirran, one of many past Virginia Conference presidents, recalled that at one time the Conference frequently interacted with SCHEV. The Conference leadership hopes to explore a working relationship with SCHEV as a representative of faculty in Virginia.

### **2009 Elections shake up the House of Delegates** By Brian Turner

A new governor, attorney general, and as many as 20 new members of the House of Delegates will take office in January when the General Assembly convenes for the legislative session. Republican Bob McDonnell easily outdistanced Democrat Creigh Deeds to return the Governor's Mansion to the GOP. Democrats held the governorship for the last eight years. Republican Bill Bolling won re-election as Lieutenant Governor, and GOP Senator Ken Cuccinelli will be the new Attorney General.

In the House, unofficial results show nine incumbents losing their races. Eight of these were Democrats, four of whom were from Fairfax and Prince William Counties, an area that had been trending Democratic over the previous several election cycles. Republican challengers also defeated Democrats Bobby Mathieson and Joseph Bouchard, both first elected to the House in 2007 from Virginia Beach. Mathieson lost his seat by just 16 votes to Ronald Villanueva. The Democrats did hold six seats left open by retirements, while the Republicans did lose one of their five seats. Jeff Frederick's Prince William County seat was won by Democrat Luke Torian by 651 votes. The lone Republican incumbent to go down to defeat was powerful Newport News Delegate Phillip

Hamilton. Hamilton was dogged by accusations that he got a teaching position at Old Dominion University by securing appropriations for the school.

General elections for the Virginia Senate are not due until 2011, but by-elections will be held for two seats to be vacated by Republicans. Cuccinelli's seat will be hotly contested, given the Attorney General-elect's very narrow victory in 2007 and the fact that the Democrats will be looking to secure their one-vote majority in the Senate. Also, Ken Stolle's seat will be open as a result of his election as Sheriff of Virginia Beach.

In spite of the big Republican gains, the biggest impact on the committees that deal with higher education will be felt from the defeat of Delegate Hamilton. Hamilton was vice-chair of the Appropriations Committee and served on the Education Committee. Also leaving the House are William Fralin (R), who has retired, and Stephen Shannon, the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for Attorney General. Both Fralin and Shannon served on the Higher Education sub-committee of the Education Committee.

We look forward to meeting Virginia's new delegates at the Eighth Annual Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day on January 14, 2010!

## **Hard Times and the Overuse of Contingent Faculty**

The leadership of the Virginia Conference is especially concerned about the increasing use of contingent faculty in times of shrinking university budgets. Such faculty are paid so little that they often piece together their livelihood through part-time employment at multiple institutions. In addition to being underpaid, they are denied both health insurance and contributions to retirement programs. Such faculty are always at risk and unable to enjoy the academic freedom that is critical for the teaching, intellectual inquiry, and participation in shared governance. Therefore, the Conference is sponsoring a one day program of events on February 26, 2010 to highlight the plight of contingent faculty members and the consequent deleterious impact on the academy as a whole. AAUP General Secretary Gary Rhoades will be the keynote speaker for this event. The tentative schedule for this event is given below:

Please check out the AAUP website for updates: <http://www.aaup-va.org/>

## **Contingent Faculty in Higher Education Today**

**February 26, 2010**

(Tentative Schedule)

**9:00 AM** Coffee and registration / AAUP publications & materials available

**9:30 AM** Keynote address. AAUP General Secretary **Gary Rhoades**  
*Richmond Salons (VCU Student Commons)*

*(Contingent Faculty Higher Education Today, February 26, 2010 Tentative Schedule)*

The keynote address will launch the event. It will introduce AAUP's new initiatives on contingent faculty and explore issues related to the growth in our contingent faculty and the decline in the percentage of tenured and tenure-track faculty. These are shared concerns by campus presidents, faculty, state governing boards, and other stakeholders.

**10:30 AM** Presidents' Roundtable Panel  
*Richmond Salons (VCU Student Commons)* – to be filmed / looking into concurrent video hook-ups elsewhere

The panel will consist of presidents from a large state university with a diverse mission, a private university, a historically black institution, and a community college.

**12:00 Noon** Lunch

**1:00 PM** Faculty concurrent sessions

We plan both a panel of tenured and tenure-track faculty to discuss the impact of the growth in contingent faculty on their programs, and several breakout sessions where contingent faculty discuss their perspectives.

**2:00 PM** Closing session

Discussion of future directions and a possible proceedings publication.

This event will be filmed for distribution by the Virginia Conference of AAUP, for use at both participating campuses and by AAUP chapters' campuses elsewhere in Virginia. Depending on funding, the national AAUP may also make this filmed event more widely available. The press will be invited to attend.