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Subject: **Academic Freedom for a Free Society NMSU-AAUP Monthly Newsletter for April 2010**
Date: April 26, 2010 6:57:42 PM MST
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Academic Freedom for a Free Society
NMSU-AAUP Monthly Newsletter
for April 2010

The Communications Team is currently organizing the second forum, "[Why an Independent Faculty Voice Matters,](#)" featuring [AAUP General Secretary, Gary Rhoades](#). The event takes place April 30th 3-5 PM, and will be simulcast to University of New Mexico, and the five campuses of New Mexico State University. Dr. Rhoades is a nationally respected scholar of higher education. His credentials are available at the AAUP website <http://nmsuaaup.org> The Steering Committee developed a Communications Team to develop the flyers, and press releases for this event, which is focused on the status of, shared governance, tenure and academic freedom.

The Membership Team, a second subgroup of the Steering Committee that works to develop the chapter is formulation plants to to contact each faculty member in the NMSU system by the end of the summer. In the meantime, there is not need to to wait for a contact - interested readers may join the chapter at anytime by visiting the chapter website at <http://nmsuaaup.org> or sending an inquiry to membership@nmsuaaup.org

The national AAUP provided two expert speakers, free of charge, for the local chapter. The Steering Committee spent hours on the local arrangements for two Forums in the month of April. The first forum was held on April 9, and featured AAUP National Treasurer Howard Bunsis speaking on "Financial Health of NMSU 2010 and Beyond." We were able to arrange two sessions. The first was a one hour session that included hookups to the community colleges in Grants, Alamogordo, and Carlsbad, as well as a hookup for the AAUP members at UNM. This presentation was recorded, and links to the presentation are available on the website. The chapter's webmaster has the video presentation on the

website at <http://nmsuaaup.org> The second session covered two hours, and was held in the Corbett Center Gallery. Provost Jay Jordan was able to attend the second session.

Dr. Couture supported Dr. Bunsis by allowing him access to the entire budget document developed by Senior V.P for Business and Finance, Jennifer Taylor. Based on that budget, Bunsis could show that NMSU is NOT in a financial crisis, even with the cuts to the 'I and G' budget from the legislature. Compared to other universities, we are doing well. One question he raised was why tuition has increased so substantially over the rate of inflation. That question remains unanswered.

Organizing the session included press releases to local media, production of flyers and poster, and getting the chapter button and business cards designed, and printed in time for the event. As a result of Howard Bunsis' presentation and outreach by Steering Committee, chapter membership increased by 50% and continues to rise. As of today, that membership has increased 200% in just 6 weeks.

Scheduled activities:

The entire Steering Committee has scheduled a day-long training on May 15th with AAUP national chapter advisors Michael Mauer and Dave Witt. The purpose is to develop our email tree, learn how to present the chapter membership in the most professional manner. People wishing to participate more actively in the chapter should contact info@nmsuaaup.org

Summer Institute Training for AAUP Members July 29-Aug 1st at San Diego state University. There is funding for 10 people to attend this training. Three people have confirmed. There is training in leadership skills, faculty advocacy, policy, collective bargaining, etc. See <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/about/events/SI.htm> for more info. Email info@nmsuaaup.org

The New Mexico Conference of AAUP Chapters Annual Meeting: Some time within the next year, we would like to give serious consideration to bringing together the chapters of AAUP throughout the state of New Mexico for an annual meeting. This is a chance to hold officer elections, do workshops on AAUP Principles, and have other

conference events. We would like to invite New Mexico State legislative representatives to talk with us on how to preserve the best practices in higher education in the state. The chapter seeks representation on the New Mexico Retirement Board. That person needs to be elected at the annual meeting.

Thank you to our growing number of chapter members for making NMSU-AAUP possible. We appreciate your volunteerism. Your local chapter dues make it possible for us to hold forums, and do the work of member outreach. Local dues are \$25 for faculty and professional staff, and \$15 for graduate student workers.

Visit the Chapter Website Often - <http://nmsuaaup.org>

Visit the [National AAUP website](#) to find out more about the Redbook, AAUP's [Policy and Statement Manual](#).

**NMSU-AAUP
Communications Team**