

## **PSU-AAUP President Position Description** *by José Padín, President 2016-2020*

The authority and role of the President are described thus in our chapter Constitution:

*The President shall call meetings of the Executive Council and the Chapter and preside at those meetings. The President shall be responsible for implementing and administering decisions of the Chapter and the Executive Council and shall have such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Council. The President and his or her designated alternate shall serve as spokesperson for the Chapter. He or she or an alternate designated by the Executive Council shall represent the Chapter at national and regional AAUP meetings (Article III, 7a.).*

When I first ran for President I had a significant amount of experience doing union work, but I had no idea what I was getting into. This has been extremely gratifying work, but it is important to know what the commitment entails to assess whether it is your “cup of tea”; whether the responsibilities fit your temperament and skills; and whether this is the right moment for you to take this exciting work on for two years.

***Time commitment.*** All of the work that the members of our Executive Council do involves a significant amount of volunteer service — it is the principle on which our union operates, and the basis of its vitality. If Councilors at Large can average 4-5 hours of union work a week, the job of the President is that, plus a half-time job. PSU-AAUP has course releases for the President which create the room to do this half-time-and-then-some job. To make sure the job does not grow into a full-time commitment, strong organizational skills are a must.

***Responsibilities.*** The weekly agenda of the President includes: meeting with the Executive Director to assess everything coming at us, and how to respond (staff); planning the agenda for the bargaining team jointly with the VP for Collective Bargaining, and sharing lead responsibilities at the bargaining table; liaising with the VP for Membership and Organizing, and the staff organizer, to align our organizing work with the rest of the work being done by other parts of the union; working with the collective bargaining team; attending a weekly Labor-Management meeting where emergent issues and problems are discussed and resolved; preparing the agenda of the weekly meeting of the Executive Council and presiding over those meetings. On a bi-weekly or monthly basis, the President represents PSU-AAUP in meetings of vital importance with other campus unions (PSUFA, GEU, SEIU); stays in communication with, and contributes to the work of AAUP-Oregon; stays in communication with our counterparts in the Faculty Senate (the Presiding officer, Steering Committee, or both). On a quarterly basis, the President prepares for and attends the meeting of the AAUP-Oregon Executive Committee, of which they are a member representing our Chapter; prepares for, attends, and offers public testimony at the quarterly meeting of the PSU Board of Trustees; sits on our Finance Committee to review and report on Association finances; and tends our important relationship with labor and community organizations. On an annual basis, the President represents our Chapter at the annual meetings of the national AAUP and AAUP-Oregon. PSU-AAUP has three staff, so the Executive Council also acts as the representative of the employer, and the President is responsible for shepherding the staff evaluation process. Periodically, but with unpredictable regularity, the President is called to represent our Chapter in action to support other academic unions in our state; to participate, both in our Chapter, and at the statewide level, in the evaluation legislative bills in Salem that impact higher education and labor, and occasionally to prepare written or verbal testimony to the legislature; to attend meetings or conference calls with a statewide Higher Education Coalition.