

Dear Colleagues,

After intense work, legal consultations, and exhaustive conversations among ourselves, the Executive Board of the California Conference of the American Association of University Professors (CA-AAUP) has completed long-overdue revisions to the CA-AAUP Constitution, which was last amended in 2003.

Our 2003 constitution requires us to conduct balloting on amendments to the Constitution via U.S. Mail. To save paper and to reduce the cost of this process, we have placed two versions of the 2015 Constitution on our website: <http://www.ca-aaup.org>

After you land at <http://www.ca-aaup.org> you will see two buttons at the top center of the home page.

For the “redlined” version of the 2015 constitution (showing changes to the 2003 Constitution and explanations from the Executive Board), click on the button marked “Redlined 2015 Constitution with Comments.”

To see a “clean” version of the 2015 constitution, without markings, click on the button labeled “Final 2015 Constitution (clean copy).”

The clean copy will be easier to read, but the redlined version will show every proposed insertion and deletion. (You will find a clean copy of the 2003 Constitution at <http://www.caaaup.org/ca-aaup-constitution.html>).

One important change, for example, is to the timetable for electing CA-AAUP officers. The proposed timetable change permits us to “piggyback” on the National AAUP's elections, conducted by mailed paper ballots. When competition exists for offices in the CA-AAUP Executive Board, CA-AAUP is required to conduct secret, paper ballot elections by mail, because our state conference includes members who must comply with federal labor laws. (See Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 here: <http://www.dol.gov/olms/regs/statutes/lmrda-act.htm>)

Paper balloting is extremely expensive. CA-AAUP's last paper ballot election cost California AAUP members roughly \$6,000 for materials and wages. Alternatively, if we join in national's paper ballot elections, we will enjoy significant cost savings. Our last quote for the cost of joining national's 2014 election was \$500 to \$750. Since this is your money, we want to spend it in the wisest, most economical way possible!

We ask that you please read both versions of the proposed 2015 Constitution carefully. We invite you to let us know if you have any questions at all. The names and email addresses of each member of the Steering Committee appear below.

We will soon be sending you a paper ballot that asks you to vote “Yes” or “No” on each revised Article. A “yes” vote means that you vote to ratify that amended Article. A “no” vote means you

reject proposed changes to that Article. We ask that you mark your ballot promptly and return it to us in the self-addressed envelope we will provide for that purpose.

Please look for your paper ballot asking you to approve the 2015 Constitution, arriving soon via U.S. Mail.

For your ballot to count, we ask that you return it in the envelope provided and postmarked no later than 11:59 pm Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

As required by the 2003 constitution, ratification of the 2015 Constitution will require a 2/3 majority of all votes received.

We will contact you with the results of the balloting via email as soon as possible after September 16, 2015.

Thank you for your support of the CA-AAUP!

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