

Candidate for AAUP Vice President

Kenneth W. Rusiniak
Professor of Psychology

Bio

I am running for vice president as part because I believe we need to re-center the AAUP in defending core principles: democratic process and principles, respectful discourse embracing dissent, local (departmental/school) control of input, workload and evaluation criteria, shared governance using contractual input. I am part of a **democratic slate of** like-minded candidates committed to democracy, local control and shared governance.

Over thirty-five years at EMU, I have participated in change and growth from many perspectives: 22 years as faculty, 13 as academic department head. I have rich experience building new academic programs, new facilities, union reform and personnel and budget management. But my slate members and I have concerns that our AAUP has drifted into administrative methods when dealing with faculty. Despite some contractual advances, we have also witnessed concessions to hierarchical decision-making, centralization of longstanding effective DID and DED processes, adoption of the one-size-fits-all credit hour business model, and opaque contractual change via MOU. Staying within a department silo, it's easy to miss the remarkable shifts in how a once democratic union has morphed in a union administration. And failed to appreciate and support the diversity and differing needs of academic cultures across colleges and units.

I bring practical institutional knowledge to our slate: service on multiple AAUP Bargaining Councils, Negotiations and Executive Committees; AAUP grievance officer defending tenure /promotion decisions, arbitrations and unfair labor practices; and protection of core AAUP values of higher education--academic freedom, discovery of new knowledge, participatory governance, local control, and transparency.

Service

AAUP: Executive Committee Member at Large; Grievance Officer; Bargaining Council, Member and Chair; EMU-AAUP Negotiation Team, Member; EMU-AAUP Task Force on Student Course Evaluation, Member; EMU-AAUP Grievance Review Boards, Member; EMU-AAUP unfair labor practice, consultant; EMU-AAUP, labor arbitration on tenure/promotion, grievance officer and consultant.

Psychology Department: Personnel Committee, Member and Chair; Instruction Committee, Member and Chair; Finance Committee, Member and Chair; Graduate Committee, Member; Faculty search committees, chair and member.

College and University: Faculty Senate, vice president, member and alternate; Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Member and Chair; College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Committee, representative; Jean Noble Parsons Center for Art and Science, Governing Board Member and one of the founders to obtain the center; JNPCAS, construction planning and implementation committee, on site consultant; College of Arts and Sciences Human Subjects Review Committee (HSRC), Member; Science Complex renovation, consulting committee member; Science Complex renovation planning/implementation committee, vivarium representative.

Professional: Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters, Psychology Section Chair; American Psychological Foundation Fellowship Committee; Midwestern Psychological Association, regional representative