

## **FACULTY MANUAL**

### **Statement on Professors and Political Activity**

The "Statement on Professors and Political Activity" that follows was published in the 1969 Spring issue of the AAUP Bulletin, adopted by the Faculty Senate as Class D advisory action on October 27, 1969, and approved by the President on November 13, 1969.

- (1) College or university faculty members are citizens and, like other citizens, they should be free to engage in political activities so far as they are able to do so consistent with their obligations as teachers and scholars.
- (2) Many kinds of political activity (e.g., holding part-time office in a political party, seeking election to any office under circumstances that do not require extensive campaigning, or serving by appointment or election in a part-time political office) are consistent with effective service as a member of a faculty. Other kinds of political activity (e.g., intensive campaigning for elective office, serving in a state legislature, or serving a limited term in a full-time position) may require that the professor seek a leave of absence from a college or university.
- (3) In recognition of the legitimacy and social importance of political activity by faculty members, universities and colleges should provide institutional arrangements to permit it, similar to those applicable to other public or private extramural service. Such arrangements may include the reduction of the faculty member's workload or leave of absence for the duration of an election campaign or a term of office, accompanied by equitable adjustment of compensation when necessary.
- (4) Faculty members seeking leave should recognize that they have a primary obligation to their institution and to their growth as an educator and scholar; they should be mindful of the problem that a leave of absence can create for the administration, their colleagues, and their students; and they should not abuse the privilege by too frequent or too late application or too extended a leave. If adjustments in their favor are made, such as a reduction of workload, they should expect them to be limited to a reasonable period.
- (5) A leave of absence incident to political activity should come under the institution's normal rules and regulations for leaves of absence. Such a leave should not affect unfavorably the tenure status of a faculty member, except that time spent on such leave from academic duties need not count as probationary service. The terms of a leave and its effect on the professor's status should be set forth in writing.