

**SUBJECT:** Notification of name change for KSU chapter

**DATE:** 3 December 2024

**TO:** Aaron Nisenson (AAUP Interim Executive Director)

**CC:** Todd Wolfson (AAUP President); Danielle Aubert (Secretary-Treasurer); Mark Bostic (Director, AAUP Department of Organizing and Services); Deborah Smith (KSUFA Chapter President); Sue Clement (KSUFA President, FTNTT Unit)

Dear Aaron,

I am writing to update you on a number of fronts. Our Joint Coordinating Board (JCB), which is the decision-making body for our Association as a whole, recently voted to change the name of our union to better reflect our autonomy from AAUP. The new name of the collective bargaining agent representing Kent State's full-time faculty is **Kent State United Faculty Association (KSUFA)**.

We recently conducted a non-binding straw poll of our members on the question of disaffiliation from AAUP. Just under 60% of the members responding either strongly or somewhat agreed that we should disaffiliate from AAUP. Given that there were a significant number of our members who declined to respond to the straw poll and given that those who did are free to change their minds, we do not know the extent to which the result of the straw poll will prove predictive of the eventual vote on the question of disaffiliation. However, it is indicative of the way the wind is currently blowing.

We anticipate taking the formal vote on the question of disaffiliation sometime in the Spring semester (likely March or April). Before that vote, we plan to hold a number of virtual town hall meetings (likely in January and/or February). We'd appreciate it if you could participate in at least one of these meetings. This would give you a chance to make a pitch to our members for remaining affiliated with AAUP and by extension with OCAAUP. We also plan to invite a representative from national.

Among the questions we would hope that you and/or a representative from national would answer at this townhall meeting are:

- What specific benefits / resources has AAUP/OCAAUP provided directly to Kent State's faculty union in connection with its collective bargaining activities (e.g., incorporation of either of our bargaining units, negotiations, contract enforcement, etc.) over the years?
- What specific benefits /resources could AAUP/OCAAUP provide directly to Kent State's faculty union in connection with its collective bargaining activities in the future if we decide to remain affiliated and get back into good standing?
- Will AAUP/OCAAUP respect the fact that Kent State's faculty union has not voted to affiliate with AFT and, per our constitution, is not currently an AFT Chapter.
- Would AAUP/OCAAUP be willing to consider an alternative dues structure if we remain affiliated that would reflect the fact that we are an autonomous collective bargaining entity that is almost (if not entirely) self-reliant with respect to all collective bargaining activities.

Based on discussions we've had with national, we suspect that the answer to the last two questions is 'no'. However, it would be helpful for our members to hear that directly from AAUP.

I'd be happy to meet with you or speak by phone with you if you have any questions or want to discuss anything relating to our process.

**Coleen Taylor, MPA**

Executive Director

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