

**Subject:** The Disaffiliation Vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00:49 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** AAUP-Ohio Conference  
**To:** KSUFA



## We Are Stronger Together

A message to our Kent State faculty members:

As you approach the vote on disaffiliation, we wanted to reach out and express our desire to keep Kent State faculty within the AAUP and encourage you to vote against disaffiliation.

For many years, the Ohio Conference AAUP (OCAAUP) and the Kent State NTT and TT units have enjoyed a strong and cooperative working relationship. We understand that the primary driver of the vote on disaffiliation is *not* on account of the OCAAUP. Nevertheless, the loss of the Kent State union would have a devastating financial impact on our small organization.

OCAAUP is the hub for the 24 Ohio AAUP chapters. We facilitate communication among chapter leaders, assist with organizing efforts, provide chapter support, and above all, we serve as the faculty voice at the state level. Over the last 14 years, as the acute attacks on workers and higher education have transpired, we have been at the forefront of fighting back. We were a founding member of the We Are Ohio coalition that successfully fought and repealed the union-busting SB 5 in 2011.

Since then, we have beaten back legislation that would have: arbitrarily increased faculty workload, ended tenure, impinged upon academic freedom, and effectively ended collective bargaining rights for faculty. Most recently, of course, we stopped SB 83 against all odds. Now we are fighting its new iteration: SB 1. Even if SB 1 passes, we will be leading the charge on legal challenges to

the new law, but only if we have the finances to do so. We need to have strong, collective advocacy efforts to defend academic freedom, shared governance, job security for *all* faculty, and more.

We can only engage in this activism with the resources that we have. As is the case with any union organization, we rely on mandatory dues. The only certain way to ensure that we can maintain this level of intensive advocacy for faculty is for the Kent State union to remain a part of the AAUP. Unless anyone can say with absolute certainty that the Kent State union will never need the State Conference or National AAUP, we believe it's important to stick with us and continue to be a part of our movements to fight back against these authoritarian measures.

We also want to acknowledge the important work of the National AAUP in this critical moment at the federal level. Under new leadership--one that is elevating our position as a strong union--the national organization has been fighting back against the Trump administration's heavy-handed and unilateral actions regarding the Department of Education and diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. In fact, just last week they scored a [legal victory](#), as a U.S. District Court granted a preliminary nationwide injunction on key parts of a pair of executive orders issued by President Trump.

National AAUP also offers an increasing number of online and in-person training opportunities to help build the ranks of our chapter leadership, to empower chapters to rise up locally, and to build solidarity from the ground up. Kent State faculty have participated in and benefitted from many of these learning opportunities over the years. The legal work of the national organization, and the knowledge, camaraderie, and solidarity that is gained from coming together and learning with colleagues from around the country, simply cannot be duplicated as an independent local.

We acknowledge that there are many nuances and considerations surrounding this vote, and there are legitimate arguments in favor of disaffiliation. But there is no question that we are stronger together. We don't know whether there is ever a "good time" to disaffiliate, but pulling away from the AAUP while higher education is squarely under attack at the state and federal levels will actively undermine our efforts. If the vote is in favor of disaffiliation, it will be a formal severance of the long-standing relationship between OCAAUP and the Kent State faculty unions.

For the many reasons stated above, we think it is in the best interests of the faculty at Kent State to stay affiliated with AAUP. However, should this be the last communication that you receive from OCAAUP, we wish you well in your future efforts to stay strong on your own.

Sincerely,

Gretchen McNamara, President  
Sara Kilpatrick, Executive Director

## Connect With Us



OHIO CONFERENCE AAUP | 222 East Town Street 2W | Columbus, OH 43215 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!