



*A Union of Professionals*

The American Federation of Teachers and the American Association of University Professors stand with United Academics, AAUP/AFT Local 4996, in affirming the right of *all* faculty to participate in shared governance within the University of Alaska system.

The attached advisory letter from the AAUP makes clear that the current effort to prevent unionized faculty members from exercising their shared governance responsibilities contravenes provisions of the AAUP's "Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities." Since 1966, the AAUP, working jointly with the American Council on Education and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, has set the standards for how the roles and responsibilities of the governing board, the administration and the faculty work together in shared governance of the institution.

The AAUP's letter points out that faculty senates and faculty unions work "hand in glove" to ensure that faculty exercise a proper role in setting institutional policy and making sure policies are followed. In Alaska, this is borne out by the facts: The senate and the union have worked together effectively for many years on behalf of the faculty, the university system and the common good. As the parent affiliates of United Academics, the AAUP and the AFT call on the University of Alaska System to rescind the Jan. 13 memo from the system's general counsel and reaffirm its commitment to AAUP principles of shared governance, including the right all faculty to participate fully in both their faculty union and their senate.