

AAUP President Gene Rice:

Remarks for FALL 2025 Colloquia

### 1) Introduction: Good Morning Tiger Nation!

- a. Professor of Philosophy, President of Local Chapter 6753 of AAUP-AFT.
- b. On Behalf of faculty I offer a
  - i. **Special welcome to new faculty**, on campus, online, cross-border
- c. Beginning of my 2<sup>nd</sup> Year as President: **Personal thanks to Exec Board:**, VP Professor Denise Orth, Treasurer Dr. Cole Engel and Past President Dr. Janett Naylor-Tinknell

### 2) As We Look Forward to New AY We Celebrate

- a. **Record** union membership
- b. **New website: FHSU-AAUP.org**, Encourage reaching out to any of us with questions or concerns
- c. Last Spring **new three year MOA** with the FHSU admin/KBOR that included
  - i. Modest raises for our hard-working faculty members
  - ii. Significant Changes to Tenure process for younger faculty
  - iii. Due to medical issue I was not able to thank the bargaining team: Dr. Cole Engel, Dr. Brian Gribben, Dr. Eric Deyo, and Dr. Lexey Bartlett.

### 3) Challenges Continue

- a. Certainly, fair to say that 2024-2025 was one of the most challenging years in recent memory for FHSU and higher education generally.
- b. Especially alarming developments:
  - i. Attacks on Tenure
  - ii. Attacks on scientific and disciplinary expertise
- c. National challenges have collectively *endangered the very idea of university as a public good.*

4) **Meeting the Challenge** We at AAUP will continue to defend the value of an *enriching, affordable and comprehensive university education* to our neighbors, friends, legislators and local leaders.

- a. *Such advocacy is most effective when done collectively:*
- b. As the old saying goes; **If you do not have a seat at the bargaining table, you're on the menu!**
- c. AAUP is at front of many of these fights: information and resources found at [www.defendingourcampuses.org](http://www.defendingourcampuses.org)
- d. Regional: continue monitoring legislative bills, networking with legislative liasons, KBOR, state AFT, regional chapters

5) **Invite all Faculty to Join Colleagues!** Championing FHSU as the Lighthouse on the Plains

- a. When we stand up for FHSU we're standing up for our fellow faculty members but most of all our hardworking students!
- b. I wish you ALL an invigorating and successful fall semester