

I am Janett Naylor-Tincknell, President of FHSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors. I have been president for 5 years now and have witnessed the ebb and flow of shared governance, membership involvement, and faculty engagement. When reflecting on my years as FHSU-AAUP president, I see benefits, we as faculty, have reaped but I also see missed opportunities.

Because of our strong MOA contract, we have weathered outside attacks on tenure, faculty positions, academic freedom, collective bargaining, and degree programs. Compared to faculty across the state and country, we have more access to shared governance processes, more transparency of initiatives and budgetary decisions, and more academic and job security.

Collectively, we have missed opportunities. At times, faculty are not fully included in decisions that impact our work, our students, and our daily lives. Shared governance is only strong when all members get a seat at the table. Life has thrown us numerous challenges over the last few years and the weight of those challenges is getting heavy. It is a lot to carry.

I understand that some of you feel disconnected, disenfranchised, marginalized, and ignored. I assure you we at FHSU-AAUP hear you and support you. We continue to fight for your rights outlined in the MOA but we are only as strong as our contract and our membership. If you are upset, join us. Join the voices holding others accountable. Join the fight for a strong faculty.

Another opportunity for us to be stronger as a unit occurs this summer at the Biennial Meeting of AAUP chapters when chapters will vote on combining efforts with the American Federation of Teachers. By merging the AAUP principles of shared governance, academic freedom, and strong faculty with the lobbying power, resources, and brawn of AFT, educators from preschool through higher education will join forces to strengthen academic institutions. This alliance could be an opportunity for every teacher, instructor, professor, librarian, and program specialist to make their voices heard.

Now is the time to join the fight. Join the voices of educators. Join the alliance of teachers in all levels of education. Help us fight to be heard, supported, and respected for the valuable work we do. You don't face the challenges alone. Join your fellow concerned chapter members. We are stronger in numbers. We are One Faculty. One Voice. Be part of the change. Be part of the movement. Join the fight for your rights, academic freedom, and shared governance. If you want to keep our seat at the shared governance table, if you want to be heard, if you want a strong faculty, become a member of FHSU-AAUP. Application information is found on our website at [fhsu-aaup.org](http://fhsu-aaup.org)