



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: AALE TO HAVE NEW PRESIDENT

May 2009

The Board of Trustees of the **American Academy for Liberal Education** is pleased to announce the selection of **Jeffrey Martineau to succeed Jeffrey D. Wallin as president of the Academy** on June 1, 2009. As previously announced, Wallin, founding president of AALE, will retire on May 31, 2009.

Martineau, currently Vice President of AALE, has served the institution in a variety of positions since joining it in 2004. Progressively involved in all phases of AALE accreditation, he has been particularly active in the international sphere, where he has been responsible for successfully implementing the board's 2003 decision to promote liberal education outside the U.S., primarily through programmatic accreditation. Jeff continues to teach courses in his field (political science) when he can, and has lectured at Georgetown University, Princeton University, Claremont McKenna College, and American University.

Testifying to Martineau's international work for AALE, Professor Garbis Der Yeghiayan, president of the American University for Humanities in Tbilisi, Georgia, was joined by the rectors of AALE member universities in Lebanon and Singapore in writing that he "has acquired a profound familiarity with various cultures, and the mentality of administration, faculty and student body of international membership operations through his numerous staff visits to countries of Europe, Middle East and Far East, where he has earned the respect and fondness of all three groups." Domestically, a veteran site visitor noted that teams "respect [Martineau's] understanding of the challenges facing those seeking to preserve liberal education in today's cultural and academic climate. They also appreciate the breadth and depth of Jeffrey's own liberal education, which is the foundation for his devotion to and even passion for the mission of AALE."

In announcing its selection, A. Lee Fritschler, outgoing chairman of the Academy's board of trustees, remarked that the board was pleased to be able to retain Martineau. "The transition from founding president is an important one for any organization, but it is especially important in the case of AALE, whose higher education constituency is currently undergoing major challenges in its relationship to government. With Martineau's unmatched knowledge of AALE procedures and policies, and with his wide and positive experience with AALE members, the board is convinced that the Academy is being turned over to experienced and capable hands. We are confident that AALE's new president will be energetic and successful in meeting the accreditation challenges of the coming decades."

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AALE is a recognized national accrediting agency for the accreditation and preaccreditation of institutions of higher education, and programs within them that offer liberal arts degrees at the baccalaureate level. The Academy is located in the nation's capital and is non-profit, non-partisan, and non-sectarian.