

Call for Papers

“The Academy at Work”

The *Thought & Action* Review Panel invites submissions for a Special Focus section in the 2006 *Thought & Action*.
Deadline for submissions: March 15, 2006

A myriad of questions surround the academy as a workplace in the early years of the 21st century. Work for almost all Americans has changed for the worse over the past decades—low-paying service jobs have replaced good paying manufacturing jobs as the mainstay of the economy; fewer and fewer employers provide health and pension benefits, and so on—and our campuses are not immune.

The traditional full-time, tenured professorship as an employment category has been in steep decline for decades, while lower-paying academic staff positions and the campus contingent workforce grow. Secure employment and traditional health and retirement benefits exist for fewer academic employees each year. Full-time, tenure-line faculty members now represent only one-third of the academic workforce. But issues of pay, benefits, and job security—the traditional purview of higher education unions—while crucially important to the quality of life of those who work in higher education—are only part of the picture.

Equally important are questions involving academic work itself. How we teach and whom we teach can no longer be taken for granted. Legislators, pundits, and the media question the effectiveness of college teaching in general. Forces outside the academy propose performance standards for the college classroom. Accountability measures enacted by some legislatures are little more than transparent attempts to weaken the autonomy professors have traditionally had in their work. Politicians and college administrators increasingly challenge the tradition of shared governance, while proprietary and for-profit institutions put forth an entirely new model for academic work. Within the academy itself, proponents of new approaches to teaching question the efficacy of traditional teaching strategies.

For the 2006 *Thought & Action* we are looking for manuscripts that address questions such as: What have we in the academy done on our own behalf to strengthen the academic professions? What should we be doing to help shape the academy's future?

Authors should send submissions to the address below. Guidelines are available at www.nea.org/he/taguid.html.

For more information contact:

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