

University of Missouri-Columbia AAUP Meeting

Saturday, February 16, 2008
S304 Memorial Union – 10:00am

Present:

Approximately 15 people were in attendance.

Announcements:

The State AAUP Conference will be holding its meeting at the University of Missouri-Columbia on February 23, 2008. Kate Markie (to discuss FERPA and privacy issues) and Erika Gubrium (AAUP National Office) will run 2 one-hour workshops and discussions about the Brooker Bill. It will be held in Brady Commons.

Minutes:

The minutes from January 12, 2008 meeting were distributed to those in attendance, as well as agendas. Agenda items included: 1) Grievance processes at MU; 2) Cunningham's "Intellectual Diversity" Bill; 3) SB389 requiring faculty to post their evaluations online; and 4) time for AAUP-MU Subcommittee reports.

Discussion ensued regarding the new President of the University system – Gary Forsee.

The first item on the agenda was the **grievance process(es) at MU**. President Adelstein began discussing the historical contours of grievances here at MU. Discussion ensued regarding possible strategies. Two national AAUP levels of punishment exist in this regard: 1) "Sanction" (for violations of shared governance) and 2) "Censure" (for violations of academic freedom standards).

A **motion** was made that the AAUP-MU have a vote of no confidence on the administration's handling of the grievance process. **The motion was seconded and voted unanimously in favor of.**

Another **motion** was made that the AAUP-MU and AAUP-MO assemble grievance materials together to pursue the national AAUP Sanctioning of the University of Missouri-Columbia. **The motion was seconded and voted unanimously in favor of.**

The second item on the agenda was to discuss, in general, the **Intellectual Diversity** Bill. The AAUP-MU had a couple representatives in Jefferson City, including Co-Vice-President Victoria Johnson and Dr. Karen Piper. The AAUP-MO had a couple representatives, including David Robinson and Keith Hardemann. MNEA was there as were two students. All spoke against the Bill.

General discussion ensued about the activity against this Bill. No motion was made, however, this led to a discussion of the need for **AAUP-MU to institute a press release following each and every monthly meeting.**

The third item on the agenda was to discuss SB389 (the MOHELA law) which includes posting information on faculty and their ratings on a website. MU has delegated this process to departments – and the university has developed 5 questions.

General concerns were raised around the table regarding how this ever got this far without faculty input. Discussion ensued. **This issue was tabled until next meeting.**

The fourth item on the agenda was to hear from the AAUP-MU Subcommittees. Co-Vice President Stephen Montgomery-Smith reported from his committee's work on the "Top Issues" here at MU. A draft report was submitted to those in attendance. Four items were in the top issues: 1) The failure of the Grievance Process; 2) Faculty Salaries; 3) Failure to Provide Value for Money; and 4) HB1315 and Post-Tenure Review at MU. Discussion ensued on both the draft report itself and the components of the top issues.

This discussion was regarded as an important one that we must revisit soon. Stephen will revise the draft keeping in mind the discussion here at the meeting. **No motion was made.**

Victoria Johnson discussed the Website/Syllabus Statement Subcommittee's work. This statement was developed via Faculty Council, former AAUP-MU President Ben Greenspan was there during those discussions. It was a situation where Faculty Council was trying to do something the faculty could agree with within the prescribed parameters as set out by the Curators.

A **motion** was made that AAUP-MU should rewrite the syllabus statement according to the Women & Gender Studies model and to have the website changed accordingly. **The motion was seconded and voted on unanimously.**

A **supplementary motion** was made that we denounce it altogether. This was not seconded. Discussion ensued regarding creating the MO Legislature and Curator Accountability Website. This was **tabled** until next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by David L. Brunsmad (brunsmad@missouri.edu)
March 3, 2008