

**Augusta State University chapter of the
American Association of University Professors
Minutes of membership meeting of 23 September 2005**

Present: Mary Jane Anderson, Michael Searles, Ray Whiting, Mark Fissel (president and recorder), Jurgen Brauer, Michael Bishku, and Beverly Collins.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:40pm in the conference room Allgood East 223.
2. Old business: The purpose of this meeting was to review the by-laws that had been compiled by a subcommittee of the executive committee the previous Friday. Dr. Whiting, in his capacity as an at-large member of the executive council and a participant in the composition of the said by-laws, led the discussion. Dr. Brauer proposed we examine the draft line-by-line. Dr. Whiting suggested it be done article by article, which procedure was agreed upon by the members.
 - a. Preliminaries: Top line: a hyphen was added to "By-laws". Fourth line of the header: a colon was removed from "Established," "Adopted" replaced "Established," and the date was changed, as a consequence of the above change, to 23 September (from 8 September). Article I was approved as amended by unanimous voice vote.
 - b. Article II: Article II, no. 1, second line: "the" was inserted before "national. Article II, no. 2, end of paragraph: period after "profession" changed to a semi-colon. Article II, no. 8: language from Article VI, section C to be added at end. Article II was approved, with the exception of the additional language pending for no. 8
 - c. Article III: Membership issues associated with Article III were discussed at length, focusing on the definition of "associate members." Dr. Whiting presented his views on the interpretation of "associate members," based upon his reading of the national AAUP document. Dr. Brauer responded by suggesting that there should be clear limitations on the variety of associate members in order to make the ASU campus chapter by-laws' formula compatible with the national document. It was asked if associate members might be officers of the chapter, to which Dr. Whiting replied that Article III was limited to membership, and not election of officers. Discussion was initiated regarding graduate students as associate members. Article III, line: "and graduate students" was inserted after "retired members." Article III was approved, with the revision noted above, by acclamation.
 - d. Article IV: Dr. Whiting prefaced discussion of Article IV by posing the question raised earlier in the meeting, namely should associate members be excluded from holding office? Article IV, line one: "Eligibility for office within the ASU chapter of the AAUP shall extend to all members except associate members and graduate students" added at the beginning. Article IV, end of first paragraph: added "The duties of the secretary/treasurer may at the discretion of the executive committee be apportioned to two individuals." It was agreed that a distinction needed to be acknowledged, in regard to the phraseology of Article IV, that presidential appointment of members to committees was different from the creation of committees. Article IV, second paragraph: the duties of the President were amended by the deletion of the phrase (second line) "appointing all committees of the chapter." Article IV was approved as amended, by acclamation.
 - e. Article V: Dr. Brauer raised the issue of forms of communication in regard to Article V.

Should electronic mail and campus mail be included as acceptable forms of communication for the transaction of the chapter's official business? Dr. Whiting opined that email would be inappropriate. It was agreed by unanimous acclamation that only campus mail and U.S. mail would be acceptable as means of communication for official chapter business, though email could be used informally to share information. Article V, end of second line: "campus and first class" was inserted after "by" and before "mail." Article V was approved as amended.

- f. Article VI: Dr. Brauer drew attention to Section B and deduction of dues payments. The voluntary nature of the deduction of dues payments was mentioned. Article VI, B. line three: "voluntary" should be inserted between "a" and "dues." Dr. Brauer also queried whether or not specific types of committees (as for example are set forth in the national AAUP web site models of by-laws) should be listed in Section C. Article VI C, line three: "committees" changed to "programs." Dr. Whiting recommended that we move the listing of types of committees to Article II, no. 8, with appropriate changes. It was so agreed. Article VI was approved as amended, by unanimous acclamation.
- g. Article VII: Article VII's reference to "written" notice to email should acknowledge that email can constitute in this context formal notice. Discussion ensued. Article VII was approved with the provision that the above-mentioned distinction be incorporated into the language of Article VII.
- h. Article VIII: Dissolution of the chapter was discussed at length. Dr. Brauer grouped the issues under two headings, the nature of dissolution, and the procedures for dissolution. Dr. Bishku proposed that dissolution of the campus chapter be contingent upon a two-thirds majority vote of the total membership. It was agreed that Dr. Fissel be delegated to consult with Dr. Whiting (who had had to depart because of the scheduling of another campus meeting) on this issue. Dr. Collins pointed out that collective indebtedness and dissolution ought to be examined. Dr. Brauer stated that the campus chapter is "legally independent," so that AAUP would not assume chapter debts. This matter, too, was directed to Dr. Fissel, who was to solicit Dr. Whiting's opinion.
- i. Article IX: Discussion then proceeded to Article IX, on amendments. It was pointed out that if an amendment regarding the dissolution of the chapter were made by majority vote to revise the amendment in Article VIII requiring a two-thirds majority to dissolve the chapter, then such an amendment (by a simple majority rather than two-thirds) rendered the Article VIII "two-thirds" requirement meaningless. Various opinions on this matter were expressed. It was agreed that this business, along with the two items specified above, also be discussed with Dr. Whiting, and his opinion solicited.
- j. Article X was discussed and approved unanimously, by acclamation.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Dr. Fissel distributed copies of the (not yet approved) minutes of the meeting of 8 September. The membership that attended that meeting (noted in the minutes) was asked to review and correct those minutes, and to submit them for revision and approval at a future meeting.
- b. Dr. Fissel noted that Dr. Anderson had joined AAUP within the two-week period designated for the enrollment of charter members, and that therefore she would be included on a list of charter members. Dr. Fissel agreed to produce a document listing the

charter members.

- c. Dr. Brauer reminded the members that during the organizational meetings of the chapter there was some consensus expressed to pursue a collective “first initiative.” He proposed that discussion of activities and initiatives be addressed at the next meeting. The collected members agreed by acclamation.
- d. Dr. Brauer moved that the establishment of “minimal” dues and dues-related issues be addressed at the next. It was so agreed.
- e. Dr. Brauer pledged to create a web site for the campus chapter. His offer was accepted, with appreciation. The members agreed that the desired URL would be <http://www.aug.edu/aaup> if that could be obtained from Information Technology Services.
- f. It was suggested that the campus chapter consider publishing an annual salary survey. The pros and cons of such an action were debated. It was agreed to place this matter on the next meeting’s agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Fissel