

**Augusta State University chapter of the
American Association of University Professors
Minutes of membership meeting of Friday, 2 December 2005**

Members present: Ruth McClelland-Nugent, Mark Fissel, Bill Reese, Mary Jane Anderson, Jurgen Brauer, Beverly Collins, Michael N. Searles, Allen Scarboro, James M. Benedict.

I] The members observed that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 2:30PM.

II] Old Business

A] The minutes of 04 November 2005 were edited and passed.

B] The bylaws were passed. We are now officially a Chapter of AAUP.

C] A program suggested for the Fall of 2006 concerning USG salary standards, inequities within departments, regional and nationwide salary data, merit pay, the faculty role model as an instrument for determining salary and the like is under consideration by a subcommittee of Mike Searles, Allen Scarboro, and Mark Fissel. Professor Searles is responsible for calling the subcommittee to order. There is no report from that subcommittee at this time.

D] The subcommittee of Mary Jane Anderson, Jurgen Brauer, and Jim Benedict, chaired by Professor Anderson, has been charged with the preparation of a program for the Spring of 2006 around the issues of protected speech, free speech, plagiarism, and academic freedom. What follows are the committee's tentative plans for the program.

We would explore the idea of "influence" in the fine arts. Martin David Jones will play some classical music and some pop music that contains extremely similar melodic content. Janice Williams will show art in that is extremely similar, yet is produced by different artists. We would then demonstrate the danger of influence in other mediums. Jim Garvey will relate cases of plagiarism in newspapers that got the plagiarist fired from his position. Next we would explore the digital medium with a short film by a student of Rick Pukis. We would examine how such an artist might feel if the work were stolen, say by copying and pasting with a computer, with no compensation or credit. Finally we would ask Ray Whiting to pull together the above ideas, to define plagiarism, to make clear how it differs from influence, to make clear why a society cannot allow plagiarism, to make clear that plagiarism stifles learning.

The members present gave the committee the "go ahead" to pursue the program plans. It was further suggested that the program include written handouts to be given to students who attend the program. The handouts could serve as evidence of attendance for extra credit back in the classroom. The content of the handouts would include definitions of academic honesty and plagiarism at ASU. It was suggested that various departments could coordinate with this program by holding workshops illustrating to students how to not plagiarize. It was hoped that the program could be video-taped for further viewing.

A tentative title for the program is: Influence, Plagiarism, What's the Big Deal? The

proposed date is Wednesday, February 22, 2006 (Washington's Birthday - you know, the guy who would not tell a lie). The time could be 1:00pm to 2:15pm. We could hold this in the cafeteria of Washington Hall, UH170, or the PAT, depending on the anticipated size of the audience and the availability of the rooms.

It was felt that the next step would be to confer with the Academic Vice-President to gain his support and help with the program. Given his support we can email the faculty so they can include this program in their Spring 2006 syllabi. We realize that time is of the essence.

E] There was no further old business.

III] New Business

A] The Executive Committee was directed to inform President Bloodworth that ASU now has a chapter of the AAUP on campus. (A meeting of this committee and President Bloodworth has been tentatively set for Friday, 09 Dec 2005 in the President's office from 10:30am to 10:45am.)

B] The Secretary/Treasurer has been directed to establish a checking account and collect the chapter dues of \$20.00 for Full and Associate Professors, \$10.00 for Assistant Professors and Instructors and \$0.00 (zero) for Part Time Faculty, Lecturers, and Graduate students. This can be done in January of 2006. Using the HCCU credit union is acceptable. Having at least 2 signatures on any check from among signatories of the Executive Committee was recommended. ASU policies on such accounts must be followed.

C] Professors Fissel and Benedict will prepare a report concerning the Evaluation of Administrators and submit the report to the National AAUP as per the request of the national AAUP.

D] It was noted that last year's AAUP Summer Institute was held on July 21-24 in Durham, New Hampshire. Maybe a few of us should go to the Summer Institute next summer.

E] According the journal of the AAUP, Academe, there have been misuses and abuses of the Disabilities Act on other campuses. Is it possible that those sorts of things could occur here?

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted

James M. Benedict
Secretary/Treasurer