

**Augusta State University chapter of the
American Association of University Professors
Minutes of membership meeting of Friday, 18 August 2006**

Members Present:

Jim Benedict, Beverly Collins, Ruth McClelland-Nugent, Angela Bratton, Mike Bishku, Christie Launius, Bill Reese, Mark Fissel, Ray Whiting, Mary Jane Anderson.

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

II. Old Business

A. The Minutes of the 21 April 2006 meeting, as posted on web site, were approved.

B. Treasurer Benedict reported a balance of \$35.07 in the chapter savings account and \$130.07 in the chapter checking account. He noted the HCCU rules require at least \$25 in a savings account in order to qualify for obtaining a checking account. Certain members were reminded to get their signature on file with the HCCU so as to be able to write checks for the chapter.

C. The report being generated by Dr. Fissel for the national AAUP, concerning the evaluation of administrators at ASU was examined. The chapter approved that we send the report to President Bloodworth and Vice-President Sullivan for review and comment. We ask that they return their comments to the chapter by September 8, 2006.

D. The chapter affirmed that the dues structure considered at the meeting of 21 April 2006 could now be voted on at this regular meeting since "reasonable notice" has been given. The chapter voted that the dues structure for the chapter for a year of membership now is:

\$20.00 for Full and Associate Professors,

\$10.00 for Assistant Professors and Instructors, and

\$1.00 for Part Time Faculty, Lecturers, and Graduate Students.

E. Dr. Fissel sent out recruitment materials this summer. There may be a concern over exactly which ASU teachers were solicited. Mark is expecting an email from an administrator to be able to better share the concerns with the chapter. The chapter noted that ASU is (happily) inclusive in terms of giving faculty status to certain employees.

F. The chapter needs a recruitment chair. No one at this meeting was willing to take on that task. However, Dr. Benedict agreed to do some recruitment work with an email to the faculty and staff that was to be written with the help of professors Collins and Fissel.

G. President Fissel is planning on attending the statewide Georgia AAUP Convention in Milledgeville on Saturday, 7 October, 2006. He has room in his car for others.

H. The Fall program is shaping up to be a discussion of the University System Retirement

Program from a faculty centered point of view (as opposed to that of agents selling products). Interesting people located in interesting positions are committing to serving on the panel. Fissel is spearheading the construction of this program.

I. Treasurer Benedict noted that everybody who attended two or more meetings last year paid their dues. One person paid dues but never attended a meeting. We had 12 members in the chapter last year.

III. New Business

On balance, the chapter was delighted to hear Dr. Whiting's presentation concerning his experiences with the "customer service implementation committee" that did its work this past summer. Despite the thrust of early verbiage on this issue, as perceived by many of the chapter members, it turns out that the term "customer service" is to apply only to staff involved with student service; it has no bearing on the classroom. Even so, some of the chapter members expressed concern of the possibility of a "spillage" into the classroom of an attitude among students that professors are there to "serve" the students independent of any effort on the part of the student to deserve the "service". An article published in the 27 July 2006 issue of the Augusta Focus made clear the success of the work of the "customer service implementation committee". The discussion around these issues lead to a possible topic for a Spring AAUP forum: What is an Academic Community?

IV. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM. The next meeting will on 15 September, 2006.

Respectfully submitted

James M. Benedict
Secretary/Treasurer
AAUP@ASU