

**Augusta State University chapter of the
American Association of University Professors
Minutes of membership meeting of Friday, 15 September 2006**

Members Present who have attended prior meetings: Jim Benedict, Mike Bishku, Angela Bratton, Beverly Collins, Mark Fissel, Christie Launius, Ruth McClelland-Nugent, Bill Reese, Mike Searles, Ray Whiting

New Members (as soon as dues are paid) present: Emam Hoosain, Linda Mitchell, Ted Atkinson

Guest Observer: Cameron Lippard

I.] The members observed that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM by Chapter President Fissel. New (potential) members and a guest were welcomed.

II.] Old Business

A.] The draft Minutes of the August 18, 2006 meeting, has not yet posted on web site. The passage of these minutes was tabled.

B.] Treasurer Benedict reported a balance of \$35.07 in the chapter savings account and \$220.07 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. It was noted that Bishku, Reese, Collins, Robinson, and Mixon have paid their dues for the year. A plea for other members to pay their dues was made. Hoosain and Whiting paid at the meeting.

C.] The report being generated by Dr. Fissel for the national AAUP, concerning the evaluation of administrators at ASU has been sent to President Bloodworth and Vice-President Sullivan for review and comment. We have their blessing. The Chapter agreed that we can now send the report, and place it on the web site. Fissel will handle this.

D.] It was noted that the "customer service implementation committee" has changed the document that the chapter considered at the last meeting. Without going through any channels such as Faculty Policies, or even this Chapter, certain faculty members lobbied the committee to change the involvement of ASU faculty with respect to the first draft of the document generated by that committee. Our chapter was incensed that there is no time for rebuttal by the Chapter, that the document is now seemingly set. It was moved that we include an agenda item under "new business" to address this issue.

E.] Dr. Fissel is no longer planning on attending the state AAUP meeting at Milledgeville to be held on Saturday, 7 October 2006. He urged other chapter members to attend.

F.] Dr. Fissel reminded the Chapter that new Georgia AAUP brochures are in his possession. Strategies were discussed concerning the proper dissemination of these materials.

G.] The Fall program to be presented by the Chapter, and organized by Fissel, is almost set. The

topic concerns Retirement Programs. There will be a panel discussion concerning the State of Georgia's handling of retirement matters within the University System. The format will be Question and Answer. Bill Reese will moderate. The panel will include Dan Whitfield, Cliff Gardner, Walt Alexanderson, and perhaps others. The event will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 from 2:30 PM until 4:00 PM in UH-170. Benedict will help publicize this to the Faculty.

III.] New Business

A.] We recalled that on balance, the chapter was delighted to hear Dr. Whiting's presentation concerning his experiences with the "customer service implementation committee" that drafted a document concerning this issue this past summer. It was deemed generally, but not completely, "acceptable" that the term "customer service" could be used in a "university" setting so long as the term "customer service" applies only to staff involved with student service. The Chapter feels that the term should not apply to what goes on in the classroom. Even so, following a unilateral action by three faculty members, the document now does refer to faculty. The Chapter does not appreciate that there is no chance for rebuttal by members of the Faculty Policies Committee or by members of the Chapter. The Chapter will draft a letter concerning its displeasure with the process that resulted in a change to the original document and its displeasure, if any, with the resultant document. This letter will be sent to all members of the "customer service implementation committee" and to President Bloodworth. The letter will be posted on the web site.

B.] The Chapter endorsed Ray Whiting's proposal that the Chapter team with Pi Kappa Phi to present a program in the spring semester on "What is an Academic Community?" or "The Nature of University". Ruth McClelland-Nugent and Bill Reese volunteered to be on a subcommittee of the Chapter with Ray to work on this event. (Bill asked that someone else volunteer in the near future in his stead.) In the discussion, a vision developed: Perhaps there could be more than just one event around this issue. Perhaps a well known author could present a talk at a day or two after the Pi Kappa Phi/ AAUP forum.

C.] The Chapter endorsed Jim Benedict's suggestion that he email President Bloodworth, Vice-President Sullivan, the deans, and the department chairs soliciting membership. The Chapter intends to be open, collegial, and inclusive.

IV.] The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 PM. The next meeting will on 20 October, 2006.

Respectfully submitted

James M. Benedict
Secretary/Treasurer
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