

**Augusta State University chapter of the
American Association of University Professors
Minutes of membership meeting of Friday, 26 January 2007**

DRAFT

Members Present: Ted Atkinson, Jim Benedict, Mike Bishku, Angela Bratton, Mark Fissel, Ruth McClelland-Nugent, Mary McCormack, Bill Reese, Robert Scott, Mike Searles

I. The members observed that a quorum was present (20% of 19) and the meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM by Chapter President Fissel. New member Mary McCormack was welcomed.

II. Old Business

A. The draft minutes of the 1 December 2006 meeting were approved. Also, all prior minutes were approved, including the minutes of 18 August 2006.

B. Officers' Reports.

President's Report: Loosely labeled as "outreach," Mark Fissel reported that our website is now on the national website via a link. Also, the "thank-you" letters to the ORP program participants have been sent. Moreover, it seems that the University Council was quite supportive of having a representative of our chapter speak at a faculty meeting. In conclusion, it seems that the faculty, in general, was supportive of the remarks given by Fissel at the Faculty meeting of Tuesday, 23 January 2006. The remarks, as given by the minutes of that meeting by the faculty secretary, are included here:

Dr. Mark Fissel presented the American Association of University Professors:

Dr. Fissel described the AAUP and its role; in some places, the AAUP plays a role in collective bargaining. This is not the case in Georgia. The AAUP chapter here is an association that promotes integrity and academic freedom. It is not adversarial. The most recent program provided by the chapter had a panel composed four-fifths of University System of Georgia administrators and three-fifths of ASU administrators. The chapter intends to provide information and let faculty decide for themselves. One current item of concern is a University System of Georgia campus that does not provide a tenure system.

Local Chapter fees are: \$20 for Full and Associate Professors, \$10 for Assistant Professors and Instructors, and \$1 for Part Time Faculty, Lecturers, and Graduate Students. National AAUP information and dues rates are available at: <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/involved/join/>. Membership requires joining at the national level; local membership is optional.

Vice-President's Report: Cowboy Mike Searles led the meeting in a round of introductions. Also, he lauded Fissel for the quality of his remarks in the Faculty meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Jim Benedict reported a balance of \$35.21 in the chapter savings account and \$422.41 in the chapter checking account. All known interested chapter members have paid their dues for the year.

C. The following change to the bylaws was approved unanimously by the chapter.

Old:

Article IV - Officers and Organization

Eligibility for office within the ASU chapter of AAUP shall extend to all members except associate members and graduate students. The officers of this organization shall be the president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer. The term of office shall be two years. Officers may serve no more than two consecutive terms. The duties of the secretary/treasurer may at the discretion of the executive committee be apportioned to two individuals.

President: The duties of the president shall include carrying out the policies of the chapter, exercising general supervision over the activities of the chapter, and presiding at meetings of the chapter and executive committee. The president shall be a member ex officio of all committees.

Vice president: The duties of the vice president shall include those usually appertaining to the office and those delegated by the president. In the absence of the president, the vice president shall serve in the president's stead.

Secretary/treasurer: The secretary/treasurer shall keep a record of all proceedings and correspondence of the chapter, certify chapter delegates to the Association's annual meeting, prepare or oversee the preparation of newsletters for distribution to the faculty if such shall be desired, maintain official contact with the Association, and keep an accurate record of all funds received and disbursed. At the request of the executive committee, the secretary/treasurer shall prepare an annual chapter budget and report of finances, and submit them for approval. It shall be the duty of the secretary/treasurer to remit to the Association and/or to the applicable state conference any dues collected on behalf of the Association and/or conference. In the absence of the president and the vice president, the secretary/treasurer shall preside at meetings of the chapter.

When an officer has resigned or is disqualified, the office shall be filled by a special election of the chapter, which shall be held as promptly as is feasible. The executive committee is empowered to fill vacancies in any elective office until a special election is held. The person so elected shall hold office for the remainder of the term.

Newly adopted:

Article IV - Officers and Organization

*****CONTAINS NEWLY ADOPTED MATERIAL*****

Eligibility for office within the ASU chapter of AAUP shall extend to all members except associate members and graduate students. The officers of this organization shall be the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The term of office shall be two years. Officers may serve no more than two consecutive terms. The president and treasurer shall be elected in the spring of even numbered years. The vice president and secretary shall be elected in the spring in odd numbered years.

*****END OF NEWLY ADOPTED MATERIAL*****

President: The duties of the president shall include carrying out the policies of the chapter, exercising general supervision over the activities of the chapter, and presiding at meetings of the chapter and executive committee. The president shall be a member ex officio of all committees.

Vice president: The duties of the vice president shall include those usually appertaining to the office and those delegated by the president. In the absence of the president, the vice president shall serve in the president's stead.

*****CONTAINS NEWLY ADOPTED MATERIAL*****

Secretary: The secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings and correspondence of the chapter, certify chapter delegates to the Association's annual meeting, prepare or oversee the preparation of newsletters for distribution to the faculty if such shall be desired, and maintain official contact with the Association. In the absence of the president and the vice president, the secretary shall preside at meetings of the chapter.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all funds received and disbursed. At the request of the executive committee, the treasurer shall prepare an annual chapter budget and report of finances, and submit them for approval. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to remit to the Association and/or to the applicable state conference any dues collected on behalf of the Association and/or conference. In the absence of the president, the vice president, and the secretary, the treasurer shall preside at meetings of the chapter.

*****END OF NEWLY ADOPTED MATERIAL*****

When an officer has resigned or is disqualified, the office shall be filled by a special election of the chapter, which shall be held as promptly as is feasible. The executive committee is empowered to fill vacancies in any elective office until a special election is held. The person so elected shall hold office for the remainder of the term.

D. Jim Benedict reported, as the representative from Faculty Policies on Customer Service Implementation Committee (CSIC), that nothing new has transpired since the last chapter meeting. There was talk of trying to create “buzzwords” like “student services” and “citizen services” to replace the pejorative “customer services”. There has been no reply to the letter sent to Vice President Sullivan.

E. Planning for the spring 2007 Chapter Program on the nature of “university” especially with reference to the notion of “customer service” was discussed. Dr. Whiting was not at the meeting so no decisions were made.

F. The chapter discussed what may be known of the status of the ORP situation. We noted our chapter will be responsible for the posting of information on our website. We discussed the notification of state AAUP officials and members of the existence of that part of the chapter’s website. We discussed the plight of adjunct professors with respect to retirement deductions from paychecks that seem to act as short-term loans to the state. (The funds are given back to the adjunct at the termination of duties.) We also discussed the plight of professors who come to ASU as temporary instructors (so TRS is not offered as an option) and then become hired in a tenure-track position. Such people never have an option of choosing the TRS retirement system!

G. The status of the campus-wide international event was discussed. The spring program is still under development.

III. New Business

A document was circulated to ASU professors recently concerning “student confidentiality”. The document was apparently only a draft that was erroneously circulated. According to some, an interpretation of the document is that a faculty member could be fired for reading an email that was not related to specific job duties. Others disagreed, stating that the terms of this document have been already defined in the Intellectual Properties document, thereby protecting faculty from any overzealous interpretation. In any case, apparently this “student confidentiality” document is being recalled.

IV. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM. The next meeting will be held on 16 February 2007.

Respectfully submitted

James M. Benedict
Secretary/Treasurer
AAUP@ASU