

AAUP@ASU
Chapter Minutes
Friday, 20 February, 2009

Members Present:

Jim Benedict, Angela Bratton, Mike Bishku, Bill Reese, Ray Whiting, Robert Scott.

I.] The members observed that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM by Chapter President Reese. Secretary Collins could not attend so former Secretary Benedict kept the minutes.

II.] Old Business

A.] The Minutes of the 17 October 2008 and 16 January 2009 were approved, Subject to minor editorial changes.

B.] Officers Reports. Treasurers Report: none. Secretaries Report: none. VP's Report: Bishku commented that it is hard to get folks to follow through with respect to joining the chapter. Presidents Report: Item C.

C.] Chancellor Davis wrote a personal response to Bill Reese concerning the letter the Chapter courtesy copied to Chancellor Davis commenting negatively upon Davis' views of the "Business Model" and "leadership" within the Academy. Our letter was very supportive of a similar letter written by the West Georgia Chapter to Davis. Davis' response mentioned that he would be happy to meet with us when the BOR meets in Augusta. That meeting has been removed to Atlanta due to budgetary concerns.

D.] Ray Whiting explained the draft of a possible sabbatical program being written by the Whiting-Brannon-Benedict committee. The main idea is that faculty can "bank" time served by working occasional overloads, thus saving the college money. The overloads would soon accrue into a semester's worth of sabbatical time. The document should be ready for the chapter's examination by the next meeting. It was noted that there are already precedent setting similarities between our plan and the "banking" of sick leave in the Optional Retirement Plan already approved by the BOR.

E.] Scott (a part time faculty member) has investigated ASU policies concerning issues of hiring, firing, timely notification of termination, and the like as pertaining to contingent faculty. Following his leadership, a robust discussion of these topics ensued. Scott will write a proposal for the Faculty Manual to be approved by the chapter and sent to Faculty Policies for consideration.

F.] The chapter likely will not sponsor a program this spring. A program for the coming fall has yet to be considered.

III.] New Business

A.] The chapter discussed the legislative meddling that can occur when our representatives do not understand the Academy. The recent "publicity boondoggle" concerning the fact that some Universities employ professors whose expertise lies in the field of human sexuality is just one example.

B.] While researching material for the “sabbatical bank” proposal, Benedict heard of two separate cases of faculty being denied, at the level of the office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, “progress” with respect to promotion and tenure. While this is only hearsay and rumor, others in the chapter had also heard of at least one of the tales. One issue involved the clothing a professor wears. The other issue involved a scholarly work for which the professor had been paid by sources outside of ASU. The chapter noted that neither issue (neither raiment nor remuneration) is included in the faculty manual as a consideration for promotion and tenure.

The chapter noted that if such issues were to be thought of as germane to tenure and promotion, then appropriate verbiage to that effect should appear in the Faculty Manual, perhaps in the material concerning the Faculty Role Model. Moreover, there is a well-defined process that can be followed to place such material in the Faculty Manual.

The chapter directed Bill Reese to craft a message (to be delivered to the Faculty Policies Committee) addressing our concerns in this area.

IV.] The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM. The next meeting will on Friday, 20 March, 2009.

Respectfully submitted

James M. Benedict
Substitute Secretary
AAUP@ASU

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Tom Crute
Chair, Faculty Policies Committee

From: American Association of University Professors
Augusta State Chapter

Re: Criteria used for Personnel Decisions

Date: February 24, 2009

It has been brought to the attention of the AAUP@ASU membership that decisions concerning promotion and tenure determinations that were made this past fall that utilized criteria that would not, and probably could not, be interpreted as part of ASU’s Faculty Role Model, even in spirit. Of particular note, we think it is of some significance that those expressing these concerns were not affected parties, but senior members of the ASU faculty who saw this as a serious breach of procedural protocol. After considerable discussion, the membership decided that perhaps these issues should be brought to the attention of and considered by FPC for possible remedies. A shared sentiment was that perhaps, at least, it is time for all members of the academy to be reminded that, once promotion and tenure criteria and procedures are duly adopted, any candidate enjoys the force of law to demand that such criteria be honored and that such procedures be observed.

Please feel free to contact any member of AAUP@ASU if we can be of further service to you in this, or in any other, regard.

November 23, 2008

Executive Committee
AAUP Chapter
University of West Georgia

Dear Sirs and Madams:

It was with great interest that we read your “Commentary/Response” of August 12, 2008, to Chancellor Davis’ “Point of View” published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on July 18, 2008. We very much appreciate your permission for the AAUP Chapter at Augusta State University to share your concerns with our entire faculty.

We too found the Chancellor’s endorsement of a business model for the identification, development, and evaluation of academic leaders ill-advised and condescending. In deep contrast, your reasoned response was informed by the experientially based understanding of the academy and her professoriate necessary to inform an appropriate leadership policy.

At a time when the entire American edifice, if not the structure of western civilization, is threatened by a wholesale lack of leadership and accountability in the realms of business, it is difficult to dispassionately evaluate proposals to emulate any such folly. Your response however, written with all due respect and consideration, eloquently exposes the speciousness of a business model of leadership foisted onto academe.

All of the constituent parties, and especially her students, of the University System of Georgia, not just her professoriate, are in your debt. Thank you for the wisdom and the courage to resist such an otherwise potentially beguiling proposal.

Please let us know if there are ways that we can further disseminate your position on this most important issue.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee
American Association of University Professors Chapter
Augusta State University

xc: Chancellor Errol B. Davis, Jr.

Hugh Hudson