Minutes of Meeting of the AAUP State Conference

Nov. 11, 2017 at Nashville State Community College

Members in attendance: Janusz Polanovski, Dale Rogers, Tammy Ruff, David Lee, Jo Williams, Joel A. Eaton, Coley McGinnis, Dora S. Estes, Phillis Gobbell, Gilma Adanus, Emily Ann Duke, Yvonne Simerman, Josie McQuail

Welcome by Dr. Terry Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Student Services at NSCC.

Chair, Josie McQuail asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Tammy Ruff read a statement by the President of AAUP at the NSCC chapter which thanks the state conference for their support of the efforts by the NSCC chapter to address issues at the college.

Pippa Holloway, President of AAUP at MTSU, reported on attending summer institute and the wealth of knowledge she learned there.

Holloway also reported on the status of governing boards at universities. She suggested that AAUP set up a session to discuss issues related to the boards and develop ways to share knowledge about experiences with them.

Holloway read a resolution about the possible ending of DACA. State Conference moved to adopt this resolution and voted to approve it. (see attached)

Tammy Ruff reported about the strategies that NSCC used to promote change. Reported that the presidential search committee which was formed by TBR, included 2 faculty representatives which had a small influence on the committee of 14 members. TBR hired a candidate search firm to locate and attract candidates to the position.

Yvonne Simerman reported on an initiative at community colleges and TCATs: SkillsUSA Framework. Concerns were raised about the involvement of Koch brothers and the push to use the curriculum in classes.

Coley McGinnis gave the legislative report about the optional retirement plan. It includes a 50% allowable withdrawal and the legislator is expected to eliminate restrictions on withdrawal, eliminate restrictions on two vendors. McGinnis sees no opposition and suggested that more involvement in Tennessee University Faculty Senates organization is important.

Update about Tennessee Foundation of the AAUP. This fund is reserved for aiding faculty members in law suits, financing speakers who present on academic freedom and free speech. The committee hopes to increase the endowment to $10,000. A letter will be sent to all AAUP members in Tennessee to solicit cash to match a $3,000.00 grant. The foundation needs 2 additional board members and would benefit from an attorney’s experience.

McQuail reported about the regional meeting of AAUP presidents. They plan to organize a panel to present issues at the national conference in June.

McQuail reported that TEA has suggestion to support tenure which includes defining tenured faculty as a resource that is more beneficial than lecturers.

Vacancies in TN State Conference offices: VP for two-year colleges, VP for private colleges.

The National Assembly of State Conferences is searching for candidates for national offices.

Adjourn for lunch

Executive Committee Business Meeting

Discussed the need to recruit members and promote tenure. National Assembly of Sate Conference support Development Grant may be sought to give financial support to recruiting efforts.

Recommended that members attend the summer institute.

Recommended that Executive committee members review by-laws and propose necessary changes or updates.