

AAUP Meeting
October 30, 2021

10 a.m. Central/11 a.m. Eastern

General meeting:

Present: David Lee, Lucy Jewel, Josephine McQuail, Raholanda White, Carol Decasal, Linda White, Eric Vogel, Troy Smith, Alfred Lutz, Mary McAlpin, Marius Carrier, Connie Black, Jo Williams, Julia Gruber, Andrew Smith, Kathy Arcangeli, Dora Estes

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting (see attached) Correction: **Daniel** Ernst TTU attended.
2. Reports from Vice Presidents (2-year colleges; 4-year colleges; private universities); treasurer.
3. Volunteers for nominating Committee formed by Executive Committee (officers) for election.
4. Dissertation/thesis loads and compensation (Carol deCasal)
5. Letter in support of Andrew Smith and Julia Gruber update on letter (attached)
6. Covid-19 protections
7. Conference Development grant deadline 11/5, see below—we encourage members on campuses with issues to think of a project or initiative.
8. The ongoing search for a Lobbyist
9. Any other, additional matters

There was a motion to approve the minutes from April 24, 2021 (prepared by Ellen Donovan), with an amendment to change Daniel Ernst to David Ernst. That motion was unanimously approved with two abstentions.

The meeting then moved into a general discussion with contributions from the Vice Presidents and other constituents about mask mandates, vaccine mandates, freedom to teach virtually, freedom of speech/academic freedom, dilution of tenure track positions, etc. There were reports from University of Memphis, MTSU, Tennessee Tech, UTK, Roane State, Tennessee State, and Christian Brothers University. Members discussed the freedom of speech situation and lawsuit at

Tennessee Tech as well as the letter in support of Professors Julia Gruber and Andrew Smith. There was also a discussion of the Conference Development Grant.

Attending members then discussed the agenda item that Carol Decassal (Tennessee State) raised about dissertation/thesis loads, compensation, and credit. Tennessee State Professor Eric Vogel (Tennessee State) also shared his perspective. Tennessee State professors have been overloaded with advising dissertation students with no additional compensation. The Tennessee State administration has categorized this advising work as “faculty service,” but the hours required to do the advising have led to 80-hour work-weeks on a consistent basis. There was discussion of other institutional policies for dissertation advising and expression of support for the professors at Tennessee State.

Treasurer Dora Estes delivered her treasurer’s report.

There was a discussion of need for a webmaster.

There was a discussion of the possibility of hiring a lobbyist.

Business Meeting:

Executive Council Present: David Lee, Lucy Jewel, Josephine McQuail, Carol Decasal, Linda White, Kathy Arcangeli, Dora Estes

At the business meeting, the executive council discussed recruitment issues. The council agreed to work on a letter soliciting funds for the foundation. There was a discussion of constituting a nominating committee for identifying new members of the executive council. The council agreed that Secretary Lucy Jewel would send out an email soliciting members for the nomination committee

Dora Estes explained her treasurer’s report in more detail.

The meeting concluded at 12:51p Central/1:51p Eastern.