



# TENNESSEE

# CONFERENCE

# UPDATE

May 1991

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Robert W. Glenn, Conference President

105 McClung Tower • University of Tennessee • Knoxville, TN 37996-0405  
615-974-1923 (Office) Bitnet: glenn@utkvx 615-481-3310 (Home)

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## UTK Chapter Wins Konheim Award

It was announced earlier this month that the UTK chapter of AAUP is the recipient of the 1991 Beatrice G. Konheim Award for Outstanding Chapter Achievement.

The Konheim Award has been presented since 1975 to an Association chapter for distinctive achievement in advancing AAUP's objectives in academic freedom, student rights and freedoms, the status of academic women, the elimination of discrimination against minorities, or the establishment of equal opportunity for members of college and university faculties.

In her letter to chapter president **Dick Penner** (English), AAUP Associate Secretary Lesley Lee Francis wrote that the Award Committee "was impressed by the Chapter's efforts this past year to improve campus security, as well as by its mentoring program" and other chapter activities.

The UTK Chapter has received extensive publicity for its efforts this year to improve campus police protection for faculty and students. Two campus investigations, a murder and a rape, were egregiously mishandled by the UTK police, and protests initiated by the UTK chapter have resulted in a March agreement making the Knoxville Police Department the investigative authority for all serious crimes occurring on campus.

The Konheim Award certificate and a check for \$1000 will be presented to the chapter at the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., on June 15.

The Conference takes pride in the accomplishments of the UTK chapter this year, and joins in the congratulations for this well-deserved recognition.

## Claxton Awards Announced Professors Ferris and Fisher Receive 1991 Awards

The 1991 Philander P. Claxton Awards were announced at the Spring Conference meeting in Jackson on April 6. The Claxton Committee, consisting of Professors **Milton Klein**, chair (History, UTK), **Ronald R. Sommer** (Library, UT-Memphis), and **James D. Nixon** (Dean, Arts and Sciences, Austin Peay), prepared the following statement:

The Philander P. Claxton Award was initiated by the Tennessee State Conference of the American Association of University Professors in 1986 to honor an individual who by the course of his or her action has done most for the advancement of higher education in the state of Tennessee or best exemplifies the ideals of the American Association of University Professors. The award is named the Claxton Award in recognition of Claxton's contributions to the state of Tennessee and the nation in the field of education. Claxton was a native Tennessean who during a long career held positions ranging from superintendent of schools in a small city school system to president of a large state college and ultimately as U.S. Commissioner of Education under three presidents.

At both state and national levels he worked diligently to raise the consciousness of the public to an understanding of the connection between improved education and a prosperous and vigorous democracy. For his role in the improvement of schools at the lower levels he has been hailed as the

Horace Mann of the South; in the field of higher education, he was responsible for securing from the legislature the largest appropriation for the University of Tennessee in its history up to that time.

The Tennessee State Conference is pleased to announce the first recipients of this award, an honor that is shared by two individuals, both of whom by their work exemplify the ideals of Philander P. Claxton in the field of higher education and also the ideals of AAUP

### **Fisher**

The first honoree is William J. Fisher, professor in the department of Management and Marketing at East Tennessee State University, where he has been since 1966. He received his undergraduate education at Hillsdale College in Michigan, his master's degree at Syracuse University and his doctorate in education as well as a second master's at the University of Colorado. Bill Fisher is highly respected as a teacher and as a colleague on his own campus. Throughout the state he is known for his integrity, intelligence, common sense, and overarching concern for faculty rights, academic freedom, and the improvement of higher education. He has been a member and officer of the East Tennessee State University Chapter of the AAUP, as well as an active member of the local chapter of the Tennessee Education Association. He has served as a representative from the College of Business to the Faculty Senate and has been the chairperson of the Senate's Employee and Retiree Benefits Committee since 1985. Within the state he has represented the teachers of East Tennessee on the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System since 1980, and he has been active in the Tennessee Higher Education Faculty Assembly since its formation, serving as president during its first year of existence.

Bill has worked indefatigably to maintain his own knowledge of legislative and administrative activity in the field of higher education so as to be of service to his colleagues in translating that information into knowledge that would be useful to them. He has served admirably as the watchdog for faculty rights. By his diligence, his disinterestedness, and his tireless expenditure of energy in behalf of the rights of faculty and the advancement of the cause of higher education, Bill Fisher exemplifies perfectly the ideals which the Philander Claxton Award was intended to commemorate.

### **Ferris**

Our second honoree is Norman Ferris, professor of history at Middle Tennessee State University, who received his undergraduate education at George Washington University, a law degree from the Blackstone School of Law in Chicago, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Emory University. Norman has achieved considerable distinction as a scholar in the field of American diplomatic history, publishing widely on that subject, but his scholarly activity has never displaced his concern for the improvement of higher education in the state of Tennessee and the advancement of the interests of his colleagues. He has been an active member and president of his own chapter of the AAUP but, more, he helped in 1975 to reenergize the Tennessee State Conference of the organization and served as its president from 1978 to 1980 and again in 1984. In addition, he has represented the state at the national level by service as a member of the national council

of the AAUP from 1980 to 1983 and of its executive committee from 1985 to 1987. He has also been the presiding officer of the Assembly of State Conferences and has served on several committees of the National organization. Additionally, he has attended national AAUP meetings regularly and has served as a principal contact between Tennessee members of the organization and the national body. Norman has often been a sentinel for all the state colleges by attendance at meetings of the Board of Regents, a body which has recognized his competence and his knowledge by consulting him frequently on matters that pertain to faculty rights, responsibilities, and welfare.

Norman's unflagging commitment to AAUP in Tennessee has kept the state conference alive and well for the past twenty years. His interest more than that of any other individual has meant that faculty have a state organization representing their academic concerns. In all this activity, Norman has remained humble, good natured, and selfless. By his many years of devoted service to academe and to the faculty, Norman Ferris exemplifies perfectly the ideals for which the Claxton Award was initiated.

### **THEC Bill Apparently Withdrawn**

The proposal to empower THEC to terminate academic programs which, in its judgment, do not justify state appropriations, is apparently dead for this legislative session.

The proposal (**H.B. 1253, S.B. 1392**) has been actively opposed by Professor Norman Ferris, chair of Committee R, and by Mary Frances Lyle, Conference lobbyist, on the ground that THEC is not in a position to judge the value to a campus of an academic program, and that decisions concerning termination of programs should be made primarily by the faculty, not by a remote administrative agency.

The substantive portion of **H.B. 1253, S.B. 1392** says:

The commission is authorized to make recommendations to the governing board of an institution ... for the termination of existing on-campus and off-campus programs, at such institution, which the commission determines to be unnecessarily duplicative or which the commission determines do not have adequate numbers of students to justify continued state appropriations. The commission shall transmit a recommendation for termination of a program to the governing board of the institution involved. The governing board will have ninety (90) days to respond to the recommendation. After reviewing any response which it may receive, the commission may order the termination of the program or modify or rescind its recommendation.

We expect that the proposal will be re-introduced in the 1992 session of the General

Assembly, and will be asking that Conference members participate in a vigorous effort to defeat the bill next year.

### **Nashville State Tech Membership**

In September, 1990, there were only 2 AAUP members at Nashville State Technical Institute. Professor **Henry Patthey** reports that as of May 1991 there are 12 members. The faculty will be applying for a chapter charter, and deserve congratulations for their recruiting achievement.

### **Conference Membership Drops**

Recruitment campaigns are needed at other campuses. From December 1990 to March 1991, active membership declined from 502 to 491, and total membership declined from 564 to 549.

**Chapter Presidents:** *Please send me as soon as possible a list of new faculty at your campus, their departments, and if already available their mailing addresses.* The Conference will contact each of those individuals directly, and the national Committee F has found that direct mailings to them from national are the single most productive recruiting tool.

## AAUP Meetings

- Representatives of several Southeast conferences met on March 16 at the Airport Hilton in Knoxville, in a meeting sponsored by the Assembly of State Conferences. Tennessee Conference members present were **Milton Klein, David Lee, and Bob Glenn** (UTK), **Lynn Dwyer** and **Ed Cullum** (Tennessee State), and **Carter Pate** (UTC). Others attending included Associate General Secretary Al Sumberg, chair of Committee F Dennis Marks, ASC chair Henry Ferrell, and representatives from the Virginia, Kentucky, and South Carolina conferences. The discussion concerned the financial problems of higher education in the South, confidentiality of faculty records, chapter development, faculty governance, and intercollegiate athletics.
- Steve Finner, Associate Director of Chapter Development (and of Collective Bargaining), met with UTK faculty on March 25, with UTC faculty on March 26, and with Tennessee Tech faculty on March 27. The Knoxville visit included discussions of collegiality, the proposal to expand THEC's authority to cancel academic programs, relations between faculty and governing bodies, and other publicity and recruitment strategies.
- A full report on the April 6 Conference meeting at Lambuth College in Jackson will appear in the next Conference Newsletter. In addition to the announcement of the Claxton Awards, the Conference discussed collegiality, the THEC proposal and other pending legislation, and especially academic freedom. Associate Secretary Robert Kreiser was the guest speaker; Bob is a national staff representative to Committee A, and talked about current issues and AAUP standards concerning academic freedom and tenure.
- At the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., the week of June 10–15, the delegates from the Tennessee Conference will be **Jim Neal** and **Norman Ferris** (MTSU), and **Bob Glenn** (UTK).
- The Fall 1991 Conference meeting will be at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, on October 5.

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