

Congratulations to ...

Professor Milton Klein (see story, this page)
Professor Robert Hughes (see story, page two)
APSU Faculty (see story, page three)

April Discussion of Faculty Rights

These minutes of the April 5, 1997, Conference meeting at UTK were prepared by Gil Fernández, Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference. They will be reviewed at the fall meeting on October 4.

1997-98 Meetings Scheduled

Please mark your calendars for the following meetings of the Tennessee Conference, AAUP:

Fall 1997: October 4,
Nashville State Technical
Inst.

Spring 1998: April 4,
Univ. of Tenn., Chattanooga

Fall 1998: October 3,
Middle Tennessee State
Univ.

Visit the Conference Web Site

The Conference maintains a WWW site at <http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~glenn/AAUP.html>. The site includes newsletters, documents, and links to other sites of interest to AAUP members. A recent addition to the site is a handbook for AAUP officers and activists written by Professor Norman Ferris (History, MTSU). *The AAUP Tradition* presents a history of the organization and information about the management of conferences, chapters, and meetings. See <http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~glenn/FerrisIndex.html>. Please send your suggestions for additions to the site or for format changes to bglenn@utk.edu.

Milton Klein Receives Claxton Award

The Tennessee Conference of the American Association of University Professors presented its Claxton Award to Professor Milton M. Klein, University Historian, at an awards luncheon on April 30 at UT's Faculty Club.



The Claxton Award is presented to an individual who has made substantial contributions to higher education in Tennessee. It is named after Philander P. Claxton, former U.S. Commissioner of Education, whose work with public schools gave him the reputation of the "Horace Mann of the South."

[cont. on p. 3.]

Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, was the site of the Spring 1997 meeting of the Tennessee Conference. President **Bob Glenn** convened the meeting at 10:05 AM. He first introduced the following three guests: Mr. R. Jack Fishman, Finance Chair for the TBR, Dr. Joseph E. Johnson, President of UT, and Dr. Angelo Volpe, President of TTU. Dr. Volpe welcomed the Conference to the TTU campus and expressed Tennessee Tech's delight in being able to host such an event. President Glenn then introduced the three-person panel which consisted of Mr. Al Cocke, Deputy Attorney General, State of Tennessee, Ms. Christine Modisher, Associate General Counsel, Tennessee Board of Regents, and Dr. Lewis Laska, Professor of Business Law, Tennessee State University. For approximately two hours, these three individuals discussed a series of issues and problems centering on the rights, responsibilities, duties, and judgments facing university faculty in the state of Tennessee.

Following a luncheon, the Conference was reconvened at 1:30 PM to carry out the business phase of the meeting. Twenty-five

faculty members representing nine institutions were in attendance. President Glenn announced that the Executive Committee had unanimously approved the Claxton Committee's recommendation that the Claxton Award be conferred upon Dr. **Milton Klein**. President Glenn then read

the citation drawn up by the Claxton Committee, chaired by David Lee, honoring Milton Klein. The award will be presented at an appropriate ceremony on the UT campus. President Glenn asked that chapters submit information on events and activities taking place on each campus for inclusion in the next Newsletter. He also asked for a volunteer to edit the Newsletter.



Left to right: Christine Modisher, Al Cocke, and Lewis Laska

The minutes of the October 12, 1996 meeting as published in the February Newsletter were approved. **Gil Fernández**, Secretary-Treasurer, reported that the Conference has a balance in its account of \$2704.05.

Vice-President for Public Institutions, **Ken Scherzer**, reported on MTSU's ongoing equity study, on the visit to the MTSU campus of Jon Alger, a lawyer with National AAUP, and on the newspaper coverage of the equity issue and Alger's visit. Scherzer also commented on the reaction these events created with the University's administration. Scherzer stated that by having attended the Weber Seminar, he is now better able to analyze university-audited budgets and to discuss them with the administrators. Had it not been for AAUP, Scherzer added, the issue of equity at MTSU would never have been raised.

Vice-President for Private Institutions, **Marius Carriere**, was unable to attend but he had submitted a report which was read by President Glenn. After a review of events and activities taking place in some of the private institutions, Carriere reported in some detail on the crisis facing Knoxville College after having been denied accreditation and on the predicament at Rhodes College where a new accrediting agency, the American Academy for Liberal Education, was forced upon the institution without faculty input. Bob Glenn informed the Conference that the April 4th issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* had covered the difficulty facing Rhodes College. Glenn also said that Steve Gadbois, Rhodes College, had inquired as to the opinion of the Conference relative to the way accreditation was handled at Rhodes. Bob Hughes moved that a carefully worded letter, based on the information included in the *Chronicle* article, be sent to the Rhodes College administration and to the AAUP chapter at Rhodes, expressing the dismay and the concern of the State Conference over the issue of disregarding the faculty's overwhelming opposition to the accrediting agency. Hughes added that the letter should also state that Rhodes College was in violation of the AAUP policy of the role of faculty in the accrediting of colleges and universities, found on pages 235-36 of the AAUP *Redbook*. It was recommended by Norm Ferris that a copy of the *Chronicle* article and of the AAUP policy be included with the letters. The motion was unanimously approved by the Conference.

President Glenn also informed the Conference about a problem which had recently come to light at Shelby State Community College. The problem which had been reported to him by several faculty members in the Memphis area and from National AAUP concerned possible interference by the Governor and Memphis-area state legislators in the administration of the Nursing Program at Shelby State. The President of the Senate at Shelby State, Steve Haley, contacted President Glenn and asked that the State Conference look into the matter and communicate with the Chancellor of the TBR relative to this predicament. After considerable discussion by the membership, Bob Hughes moved that President Glenn talk with the faculty of Shelby State, request a written narrative of the allegations with all supporting documents, and wait to see if there is action taken by any administrative body, reversing the action taken initially by the faculty. At that time, President Glenn is to communicate with the State AAUP Executive Committee on the matter. There was unanimous consent for the motion.

Robert Hughes Elected to Nat'l Council

Robert Hughes (Divinity, Univ. of the South), Immediate Past President of the Tennessee Conference, was elected to the national Council of AAUP in the recent election. The National Council is the governing board of



AAUP, which manages organization finances and property, establishes and monitors the work of the committees, and sets policy directions. Hughes' election puts a Tennessean on the Council for the first time in several years. Congratulations, Bob!



[April 5 Minutes—cont.]

Committee A (Academic Freedom and Tenure): **Bob Hughes**, Chairperson, informed the Conference that no major cases of a serious nature had been brought before Committee A this year. Hughes reminded everyone that the most effective tool to safeguard Academic Freedom and Tenure are a strong and active chapter and the existence of a solid Committee A at the local level.

Committee F (Membership): **Linda and Doyle Hasty**, Co-chairpersons, stated that their principal activity this spring has been to write letters to approximately one-hundred individuals who have renewed their affiliation with AAUP or who have joined AAUP for the first time. President Glenn notified the Conference that a Leadership Conference will take place in late April in Michigan, and that money is available from the Assembly of State Conferences for anyone who is interested in attending.

Committee R (Government Relations): **David Rowe**, Chairperson, reminded everyone about the state-wide legislative list of e-mail addresses which he has compiled and which is available to all the membership. Rowe then brought up the role of the lobbyist, recommending that the Conference clarify what exactly we expect of our lobbyist. President Glenn commented that 70% of our approximate yearly budget of \$7500.00 goes to pay for the lobbyist. **Pat Reagan** stated that we need a technology friendly lobbyist with e-mail capacity and knowledge about the internet. **Norm Ferris** argued that Mary Frances Lyle was the kind of lobbyist we need, taking into account that she is not an amateur, she is personally acquainted with legislators, and she knows how to screen legislation and alerts us about pending bills affecting higher education. In addition, Mary Frances Lyle has political shrewdness and shares our ideas, she is reliable, and she is basically cheap considering the service she renders us. Bob Hughes recommended that President Glenn establish a sub-committee which includes David Rowe and others to meet with Mary Frances Lyle and discuss with her what our organization expects of her, and what she, in turn, can provide us. President Glenn agreed to form such a sub-committee.

David Rowe reported that with regards to pending legislation, he was informed by the chairperson of the Senate Education Committee that there will not be any legislation on creationism versus evolution,

AAUP Chapter Organized at APSU

The conference has a new chapter at Austin Peay State University, where twenty-five faculty have joined AAUP, adopted by-laws, and elected officers. The chapter president, **Dick Gildrie**, says he hopes to have 45 members by the fall. The story about the organizing success at APSU was carried in the Clarksville and Nashville newspapers, and an article in the May 11 issue of the Knoxville *News-Sentinel* was titled, "Concerned About Looming Budget Cuts, Austin Peay Professors Unite." Congratulations to our colleagues at APSU!



[April 5 Minutes—cont.]

that the status of THEC would not be changed during this session, that the budget is fixed but there could be some adjustment for equitable distribution of funds throughout the system, and that the Blue Ribbon Commission Higher Education would not get down to business until after the end of the current legislative session. Rowe also reported that in conversations with legislators, he felt that they have a complete misunderstanding of what a college/university education is all about, and lack knowledge of the responsibilities, activities, and duties of college/university faculty. Rowe reminded and encouraged everyone to attend Legislature Day, Tuesday, April 22, and to meet at 9:30 AM in front of the cafeteria in the state capital building.

No reports from Committees T, V, and W, nor from the lobbyist were available since none of the individuals chairing each unit was able to attend.

Under new business, Pat Reagan informed the Conference that National AAUP does have a Web site in Washington, D.C., but has no hot links to staff e-mail addresses; in addition, the on-line version of the *Redbook* has not been revised in the past three years. Reagan moved that the Tennessee Conference of AAUP strongly encourage National AAUP to revise its current Web site to include e-mail addresses and hot links for its national officers and to look into revising or converting the Connecticut gopher site into an HTML site. The motion passed unanimously. President Glenn said he would send the motion to the Association of State Conferences, and they in turn could present it to the National Council for consideration.



Lewis Laska asked permission of the Conference to sponsor his forthcoming book, *Rights and Duties of College Professors in Tennessee*, at no cost to the Conference. He will have the manuscript ready by the October meeting and asked for peer review of the book prior to the meeting. Bob Glenn stated that he would put the manuscript on the Conference Web site.

A delegate from Tennessee State University reported on a tenure problem at that institution, where the Faculty Senate has discovered discrepancies in the tenure document as well as a lack of consistency in the granting of tenure. Bob Glenn asked that he be provided with a narrative concerning the problems and promised to look into the matter.

Bill Fisher notified the Conference that at the forthcoming meetings of both Tennessee Boards additional options to the retirement program are going to be considered.

Bob Hughes moved that the sum of \$600.00 be allocated to send a Conference delegate to the National Meeting. The motion passed. Hughes also made a motion to express the Conference's appreciation for TTU's hospitality in hosting the Spring Meeting. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gil Fernández, Secretary-Treasurer



[Claxton Award—cont. from p. 1]

The chair of the 1997 Claxton Awards committee was David Lee (German, UTK), who read the following citation at the awards luncheon:

Milton Klein retired from teaching twelve years ago, but he has not given up his energetic support of AAUP or his profession of history. As a former member of AAUP's national council (1977-80) and a long-time activist in both his local chapter and the state conference, Professor Klein has expected the same high standards and commitment from others that he sets for himself. He has served as the voice of conscience to many an AAUP member and officer and has inspired several generations of colleagues to rise to the defense of academic freedom and the cause of liberal higher education.

As a legal historian and a member of his chapter's Committee A for many years, Professor Klein has directed his professional knowledge, his idealism, and his considerable diplomatic skills toward helping colleagues in distress. As one of the most widely known and respected members of Knoxville's university community, he has spoken out for AAUP at all levels of the university, and as head of the local chapter's membership committee from 1985 to 1995 he has worked to sustain the Association in all academic climates.

The Tennessee Conference's Claxton Award was created at his suggestion in 1985. Both in memorializing a distinguished Tennessee educator from the first half of this century, Philander P. Claxton, and in seeking out other historical examples of courage, such as Andrew Holt's defense during the McCarthy era of a leftist faculty member, Professor Klein has used the craft of the historian to remind us that the struggle for free speech and free thought is ongoing and that Tennesseans of the past have successfully met the challenge of defending these always imperiled institutions. The Claxton Award has also allowed us to honor contemporaries who have displayed great dedication and courage in furthering the principles of AAUP, and so it is more than fitting that Professor Klein join the ranks of those who have been previously honored.

Additional information about the Claxton Award is at the AAUP Web page:

<http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~glenn/ClaxtonAward.html>.

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About the Chapter Service Program

The Tennessee Conference Chapter Service Program, with support from the Assembly of State Conferences, is designed to aid AAUP chapters in promoting a program on their campuses that will reflect the standards of professional development associated with the AAUP. The AAUP has developed the standards for academic practice long recognized by professors, governing bodies, and administrators in higher education. Each local chapter should have as one of its goals a commitment to see that these standards are adhered to on their campus. Please contact Conference officers or committee chairs for help and services in the following areas:

- Recruitment and retention of members
- Tenure and academic freedom
- Faculty governance
- Chapter leadership training
- Economic welfare of the professoriate
- Lobbying activities
- Conference WWW page
- Attorney referral list



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