

TENNESSEE

CONFERENCE

March 2009

NEWSLETTER

The Spring Meeting at a Glance

The Spring 2009 Meeting of the Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 27-28. The meeting will begin with dinner at 7:00 and a ceremony at 8:00 in honor of long-term members. The dinner and recognition will be held at Café Coco's Italian Market & Kitchen located at 411 51st Avenue N. See the article on page 2 for the list of faculty members to be recognized. The program on Saturday will be held at Tennessee State University. The schedule of the meeting is provided in the next column. A link to the registration form is on the documents page of the Conference website.

Saturday morning will begin with the business meeting of the Conference. There will be an election of officers for positions to be filled. Committee reports will be presented in writing.

The theme of the meeting is "Maintaining a Quality Education During the Global Financial Crisis." Dr. Richard Rhoda will speak on the possible reorganization of the state systems of higher education. This will be followed by two concurrent sessions in the morning, one for private institutions and one for public institutions.

Session A, in the morning, will be "Maintaining Quality at Public Institutions," a round table discussion of faculty with Dr. Rhoda and legislators regarding funding and reorganization issues under consideration by the Committees on Higher Education.

Session B, is titled, "Maintaining Quality at Private Institutions." It will provide a demonstration of how to access IRS 990 forms to obtain the financial records of private institutions. A round table discussion will follow that addresses

governance, issues, and challenges at the various institutions.

After lunch, a session for all participants will be conducted by Jennifer Nichols, a staff member of the National AAUP, on chapter building and organizational efforts.

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Spring Meeting Program Please Register by E-mail

Friday, March 27

- 7:00 pm Dinner
- 8:00 pm Recognition of Long-term Members

Saturday, March 28

- 8:00— 8:30 Coffee and Registration
- 8:30— 9:20 TN Conference Business Meeting
- 9:30—10:15 Welcome
Opening Speaker
Dr. Richard Rhoda,
Exec. Director of THEC
- 10:30—12:00 Concurrent Sessions
 - A. Maintaining Quality at Public Institutions
—A Round Table Discussion with State Legislators
 - B. Maintaining Quality at Private Institutions
—Accessing IRS 990 Forms and Round Table Discussion
- 12:00—1:00pm Lunch
- 1:00—3:00
A Collaborative Approach to Chapter Building and Organization
Jenn Nichols, Assoc. Secretary,
Department of Organizing and Services
--Offered by the National AAUP

The Fall Meeting in Review at Motlow State Community College

Linda Hasty was an excellent Program Chair for our meeting this past fall at Motlow on October 4, 2008. We were welcomed to the campus by President Apple (pictured below). Seated to the left are Andy Smith, Margaret Johnson, and Chandra Griffith Elkins who were the presenters for the session sponsored by the Committee on Part-time and Non-tenure Track Appointments.



A concurrent session was sponsored by the Committee on Government Relations led by Kurt Eisen. Seated at the table (pictured below) sharing comments with the group based on years of experience are from right to left, Kenneth Scherzer, Norman Ferris and our lobbyist Coley McGinnis.



Photographs by Valerie Chu of LeMoyne-Owen College.

Jim Williams, Chair of the Membership Committee led a session on developing a Comprehensive Membership Program for the Conference.

Vanguards of the AAUP: Recognition of Long-term Members

S. K. Ballal writes that when he arrived at Tennessee Tech in January 1964, there was no AAUP chapter. “Bob Jones, Paul Stephenson, Richard Lucas and I got together once in the cafeteria (now Dr. Bagley’s office) and started talking about starting one. We stayed with it. That was in the fall of 1964! I am glad that good leadership over the years sustained its growth.”

On Friday evening, March 27th, we will begin the Spring Meeting with a reception at which we celebrate long-term members and hopefully hear some more great stories. Please look at the list of honorees below and encourage them to come to the Spring Meeting so that we can be encouraged by their years of service.

Fifty-Seven Years—Longest Serving Member

Gideon W. Fryer, UT, Knoxville (retired)

Fifty Years

William J. Fisher, ETSU (retired)

Forty-Five Years

Norman B. Ferris, MTSU (retired)

William B. Patterson, Univ. of the South (retired)

S. K. Ballal, TennesseeTech (full-time)

Forty Years

Gilbert G. Fernandez, Tennessee Tech (part-time)

J. Abernathy Smith, (retired)

Robert J. Frankle, University of Memphis (retired)

Jonathan G. Utley, UT, Knoxville (retired)

Thomas E. Camp, Univ. of the South (retired)

WmBeryl West, MTSU

Twenty-Five Years

James F. Peterman, Univ. of the South (full-time)

Frederick H. Croom, Univ. of the South (full-time)

Ross C. Land, Southwest Tennessee CC, (full-time)

Robert S. Ambler, UT, Knoxville (full-time)

Suzanne B. Kurth, UT, Knoxville (full-time)

Susan D. Martin, UT, Knoxville (full-time)

Charles Maland, UT, Knoxville (full-time)

Guenter K. Piehler, UT, Knoxville (full-time)

Patrick Reagan, Tennessee Tech, (full-time)

Let’s take time to celebrate our history and the perseverance of these faculty members as we prepare to take on the current challenges that we face.

Tennessee Conference Committees

The conference is seeking additional members who will actively participate on each of its committees. The spring meeting will be a great opportunity for you to learn about the various committees and request to become a member of one. We seek broad representation from various institutions across the state in each committee. A list of the Conference committees follows:

- Committee A (Academic Freedom and Tenure)
- Committee on Membership and Dues
- Committee on Part-Time & Non-Tenure-Track Appointments
- Committee on Government Relations
- Committee on College and University Government
- Committee on Junior and Community Colleges
- Committee on Status of Women
- Claxton Award Committee

Election

Two offices were created by the Constitutional Amendments passed at the Fall Meeting. The position of Secretary/Treasurer has been separated into two offices. Pippa Holloway who has served as Secretary/Treasurer will continue to serve as Treasurer. A Third Vice President has been added to serve as Vice President of Community Colleges.

We are still accepting nominations for these two positions. The election will be held in the Conference business meeting at the Spring Meeting.

Travel Grants to the Spring Meeting

The following resolution was passed at the fall meeting to provide travel assistance. "Any campus that sends 4 or more faculty (broadly defined) individuals (2 of whom have never attended a state conference meeting) can be reimbursed up to \$200 from the state conference for expenses." A simple form expenses and names of meeting participants from the campus will be available at the spring meeting.

Funeral for Higher Education in Tennessee

On Monday, February 9, in Nashville a rally was held to draw attention to the serious threats facing our public institutions. The Tennessee Conference provided a press release and flyers to clearly state our position regarding the "funeral."



Picture by Patty Arriagada

The Conference statement reads in part:

"The Coalition to Save Our Schools (CSOS), a student group, has effectively organized and promoted this event to bring statewide attention to the serious threats on Higher Education in Tennessee. The TN-AAUP fully supports the students as they critically evaluate current issues, search for solutions, and exercise their right as citizens to express themselves publicly.

During a time of serious recession, the health and future of Tennessee depends on an active, educated population. This is not the time to reduce access to, or the quality of, higher education. We join with faculty, students, and families in their serious concern about the current threats to higher education."

After reading the official AAUP Conference statement, Andy Smith shared a poetic eulogy for Tennessee Higher Education.

Daniel Flatt, reported the event in his article entitled "Demonstrators rally on the capitol," in *The Oracle*, the Student Newspaper at Tennessee Tech University, February 13, 2009. According to Flatt:

"State Representatives G. A. Hardaway of Memphis and Brenda Gilmore of Metro Nashville briefly spoke to the crowd on the steps.

Hardaway urged the members of the rally to spread their enthusiasm to their peers at home.

He also noted that the coalition and citizens must not cease in staying involved with government decisions.

The coalition plans on having another demonstration before (the) March 26 TBR meeting.”

Chapter News

These updates are based on reports from local chapters. Please send your chapter news to Delphia Harris by June 6th for inclusion in the summer 2009 newsletter.

Austin Peay State University

Our chapter has been very busy this semester.

1. The chapter is co-sponsoring Dr. Barry Williams from Vanderbilt talk from his new book having to do with Speech in the Workplace. He will speak specifically to speech on campus with both a faculty and student perspective. We are hosting the meeting and luncheon on March 31.

2. We have worked to develop a strong and mutually supportive relationship with our faculty senate. Several AAUP Chapter officers are on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The chapter president has had significant dialogue with the Senate president regarding budgetary issues, personnel problems and shared governance with President Hall. AAUP has had a seat at the table in making budgetary decisions for the university in this time of financial budget squeezes.

3. We gave a presentation to new faculty concerning the role of AAUP as distinguished from Faculty Senate. Recruiting efforts were made but with limited success.

4. Our local chapter has acted as one of the major conduits for information coming from the recent brouhaha regarding the Chancellor's proposed business plan.

5. The AAUP was also represented in a lunch with one of the local legislators on the Higher Education Committee.

East Tennessee State University

Our Faculty Senate has recently gotten the President to assign faculty (usually the Senate president & pres. elect) to both Academic Council and President's Council where many upper-level decisions are finalized.

President Stanton has been as transparent as possible in telling us exactly what he is considering (buy-outs & early retirement with bonuses) and what he will not consider at this time (furloughs & lay-offs). His Budget-Reduction Team (which includes faculty) has taken 110 suggestions from faculty, staff & students and addressed where they have made reductions (in energy costs) and where they are still looking (Univ. transportation pool). They also pointed out the suggestions that only TBR could address (4-day work week). They seem to be providing regular university-wide open meetings to keep everyone informed and to continue to take suggestions.

For the Deans' part, they seem to be cutting adjuncts and dropping classes that they expect low enrollments in (such as graduate courses) and giving professors more, larger, lower level classes to teach.

LeMoyné-Owen College

On October 25th, we celebrated the Inauguration of Johnnie B. Watson as the 11th President of the College. He had served as Interim President for two years before being selected to serve as President. A ceremony was planned jointly by the Faculty Organization, the Board of Trustees, and the staff. Various sectors of the campus community gave gifts and awards to President Watson. The faculty provided a framed letter of support that was signed by every faculty member.

The Faculty Organization has provided the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board with the draft of the Faculty Handbook with major revisions. The handbook is expected to be completed and approved at the May Board Meeting.

Middle Tennessee State University

The chapter at MTSU has been active so far this year in the same ways as everyone else.

1. A principal focus of activity has been monitoring and responding to the various conversations at the local and state levels of budgetary constraints and administrative reorganization. Sharing news and information with our members (over 70) and eliciting response has complemented efforts by the Faculty Senate and Liaison Committee. We have also supported student efforts, particularly by the Committee to Save Our School, to respond to the Chancellor's suggestions.

2. We continue to provide consultation to individuals engaged in tenure and promotion processes, supporting traditional principles of openness and equity in the process. AAUP is also conducting conversations in two situations regarding

issues of faculty governance and equity in their respective departments.

3. AAUP produced and distributed a newsletter at the end of the fall semester, and we held a benefit membership wine tasting event attended by thirty people.

Tennessee Tech University

This has remained a very busy academic year for the Tennessee Tech chapter of AAUP. After successful events throughout the Fall semester, we've reacted to some shocks and setbacks with a spirit of involvement with an eye towards successful events that secure the future of shared governance and a fair workplace for all faculty.

Our strong support for the AAUP resolution to raise part-time faculty pay in the TBR system suffered a blow when the Presidents' Council tabled the motion late last year. In a similar manner, we were disappointed by the now infamous Manning memo that suggested our system would employ still more temporary faculty in the name of greater efficiency.

Early this year, our contingent faculty activists switched to focus on other possible measures that could improve their situation without costing our institutions a dime. At Tech, we received tentative administrative support for including language in academic freedom policies that explicitly includes non-permanent faculty during the term of their appointments. At the same time, we would like to see involvement from non-permanent faculty in structures of shared governance. It's unclear whether full-time faculty would support such an idea; in informal conversation, some individuals have suggested that this would be hard to attain.

In February, our first chapter meeting of 2009 was scheduled to involve a visit from our president, Dr. Robert Bell. When President Bell asked to move the meeting day due to a scheduling conflict, we suggested that the time might be right for a campus wide forum on the current budget situation. President Bell agreed, and AAUP ended up co-hosting the event with the Faculty Senate. Hundreds attended, including faculty, administrators, staff, students, and members of the community. Our campus really came together for the event which was recorded to DVD, reported on by Cookeville's *Herald-Citizen* local newspaper and the *Tech Times* online campus newsletter.

<http://www.herald-citizen.com/index.cfm?event=news.view&id=52C22737-19B9-E2E2-67FFCEBE4EAECA0>

<http://www.herald-citizen.com/index.cfm?event=news.view&id=667FC27B-19B9-E2E2-6793A39752D94D2B>

http://www.tntech.edu/techtimes/2009/09_02/02_11/budget_forum_special.html

A website was set up for the campus to submit questions anonymously, and while most of the information shared that day was more speculative than concrete, the moment made clear the importance of an inclusive approach to deliberations and discussions of this magnitude. A mood of campus unity and shared governance provided a helpful and healthy balance to overarching anxieties and uncertainties.

Conference Officers

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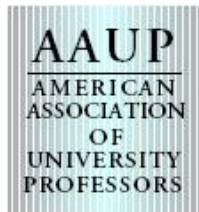
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About the Chapter Service Program

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 for help and services in the following areas:

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



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