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Right Flier: Newsletter of the AAUP-WSU Volume 9, Number 2, February 2009

American Association of University Professors-Wright State University

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The Right Flier

Newsletter of the AAUP-WSU

Volume 9, Number 2, February, 2009

Editor, Henry Ruminski

Administrative Assistant, Connie Jacobs

WE HEARD YOU...and now we ask you!

Anna Bellisari, President

In the halls, in the parking lots, over lunch and coffee, and by phone and email, we heard your frustrations regarding the support services for teaching and research at Wright State. You were assigned a classroom with broken furniture, your computer required an inordinate amount of class time to load Mathematica, you had to teach in an L-shaped room which made some of your students invisible from your podium, you were denied the type of computer you needed, you were told that CTL was not responsible for providing service in a conference room in which you were assigned to teach, your classroom clock and other equipment were not functioning, the acetate roller you needed for overhead projections had not been cleaned, your classroom assignment was changed the day before the start of the quarter without consulting you and without provision of the electronic equipment you had requested, the DVD player in your classroom did not work, the computer you had ordered took months to arrive, etc., etc., etc.

We heard you, and we negotiated a new agreement with the WSU administration. Our current contract states that "The University and the AAUP-WSU agree that service units which are responsive to faculty needs are essential in order for the core missions of Wright State University in teaching and research be accomplished. To this end, the parties will maintain an Academic Services Committee to review and make recommendations regarding the services provided to faculty in support of their teaching and research by Computing and Telecommunication Services (CaTS), the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), the Office of the Registrar, and the Physical Plant." (CBA 18.5).

We heard you, and a great group of Bargaining Unit Faculty Members immediately volunteered to serve on the ASC in order to address your concerns - to collect and review problems and to develop recommendations for improving the institutional environment. Faculty members currently serving on the ASC are Gerald Alter, Martin Kich, Michael Raymer, and Jim Vance.

Now we need to hear from you. We need your brief, written reports about the issues in classrooms, offices, and research labs that should have been addressed by these academic service units. Without your input the ASC cannot make a case for any change from the status quo. It cannot meet its charge to work toward improving the institutional environment, and the problems will not go away. The ASC will work for you, but it needs information from you in order to prepare its recommendations to the Provost.

Please fill out the Academic Service Problem Report form on page 3 and send it to the AAUP office (123 Allyn Hall) before you forget, by February 20 at the latest. If you have more than one problem to report, please copy the form and fill out a separate report. Or send a brief email message reporting all problems to AAUP-WSU@math.wright.edu by that deadline. Regardless of how you reply, please let us hear from you, the sooner the better.

Any problem you identify probably also affects some of your colleagues, so you will make a significant impact when you report it to us. Let's work together to make fulfilling our academic responsibilities a little easier and more rewarding.

Attendance at AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress, December, 2008

Lawrence J. Prochaska, Treasurer

I am the newly elected treasurer of our WSU chapter and am somewhat naïve when it comes to how AAUP operates at the local, state, and national level. Our executive committee has patiently tried to bring me up to speed on AAUP matters and they suggested that I attend a semi-annual Collective Bargaining Congress as WSU's representative for two days in December in Washington DC.

I wasn't sure what to expect and I wasn't sure I would get much out of the meeting. To my relief, the meeting was focused all on collective bargaining issues. I learned a lot about how successful AAUP has become in organizing and unionizing college faculties throughout the US, 69 campuses with 44,000 members. Most of those institutions were similar in size and scope as WSU, except the SUNY and University of California systems.

The meeting sessions were held in small groups of 20-25 people and I was fortunate to be able to pick sessions which held my interest: included were sessions on Health Savings Accounts, on Negotiation Roundtable for public institutions, and finally, on Bargaining Communiqués; strategies for talking to your members during negotiations.

On the second day, we had a business meeting with reports from officers and AAUP national staff personnel. I was truly impressed with the quality and commitment of the Faculty who attended the conference. I learned the National AAUP is recovering from a recent downturn of 3 years ago and is actively engaged in new organizing opportunities in conjunction with American Federation of Teachers (from the AFL-CIO). Also, it was clear that union activists at this meeting were all driven by concerns of fair treatment, equity, and the commitment to social justice for all faculty in their bargaining unit. They also all experienced the same everyday difficulties we face at WSU! All in all, about 75-100 people attended and I found myself stimulated in a manner similar to when I attend conferences in my research expertise. JOIN AAUP!!!

AAUP-WSU Executive Committee Contact Info

| | Phone # |
|--|---------|
| Anna Bellisari, President | 2923 |
| Henry Ruminski, Vice President | 2950 |
| Audrey McGowin, Secretary | 2791 |
| Larry Prochaska, Treasurer | 2551 |
| Jim Vance, Communication Officer | 2206 |
| Travis Doom, Member-at-Large | 5105 |
| Carol Loranger, Member-at-Large | 2961 |
| Rudy Fichtenbaum, Chief Negotiator | 3085 |
| Matt Rizki, Grievance & Contract Admn. | 5517 |

ACADEMIC SERVICE PROBLEM REPORT

(copy this form and send a separate report for each problem)

From _____
Name Campus Phone or Email
(in case we need to contact you)

Date _____

Location of Problem _____

Nature of Problem

Please send to AAUP-WSU
Campus Mail: AAUP-WSU, 123 Allyn Hall
Fax: 937-775-3617

Don't forget to vote for AAUP-WSU Officers

Members are reminded to vote for chapter officers. Watch for your ballot in campus mail next week. They must be returned by 9:30 a.m., Friday, March 6. The officers being elected will begin two-year terms of office beginning on June 1 with the exception of the Nominating Committee Member-at-Large who will serve for one year. Election results will be presented at the Winter quarter chapter meeting.

Offices and candidates are:

- President: Henry Ruminski, Associate Professor, Communication
- Communication Officer: Marlese Durr, Professor, Sociology & Anthropology
Jim Vance, Associate Professor, Mathematics & Statistics
- Secretary: Martin Kich, Professor, English, Lake Campus
Lawrence Turyn, Professor, Mathematics & Statistics
- Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee
Linda Farmer, Associate Professor, Philosophy
Doris Johnson, Associate Professor, Teacher Education
- Member-at-Large of the Nominating Committee:
Munsup Seoh, Professor, Mathematics & Statistics

We need your input on semesters

One of the changes "recommended" by the University System of Ohio was a uniform semester calendar for state colleges and universities. The calendar is one of the items that the administration and WSU-AAUP must negotiate. In addition, the guidelines for the switch state that the conversion must be "workload neutral." It is up to WSU-AAUP to ensure that the conversion does not negatively impact faculty. To do that we need input and there are two ways that you can make sure yours is received.

The chapter has established a semester conversion workload committee co-chaired by Vice President Henry Ruminski and Secretary Audrey McGowin. The committee members were selected to provide representation from units having a variety of unique or unusual faculty assignments. While the traditional lecture/class meeting model works for many of us, in some units, such as music and art, other forms of instruction are part of the workload. In addition many faculty members have other assignments which have an impact on their teaching load. Trying to ensure that all those unique assignments are not negatively affected by the conversion requires that the negotiators have as much information as possible about them.

You can help by sharing your concerns with committee members. While you can provide input to any committee members, some members are dealing with particular concerns. Penny Park and Randall Paul are gathering input from the fine and performing arts; Tom Diamantes from CEHS; Michel A. Coconis, Social Work; Mark S Cubberley, Lake Campus; Patricia E. Vermeersch, Nursing; Fred D. Garber, CECS and Mark Mamrack, COSM. Please share your concerns with these committee members or Henry Ruminski and Audrey McGowin.

A second opportunity to make your concerns heard will be at the Winter Chapter meeting (details below). The executive committee and Chief Negotiator Rudy Fichtenbaum will be available to listen to your issues and provide some context for what WSU-AAUP is trying to achieve. Please come to the meeting since your input is important. Your union can only represent you if we know your concerns.

Your union at work

The period since the last newsletter has been a busy one for the Grievance and Contract Administration Officer (GCO). Some of the issues dealt with included:

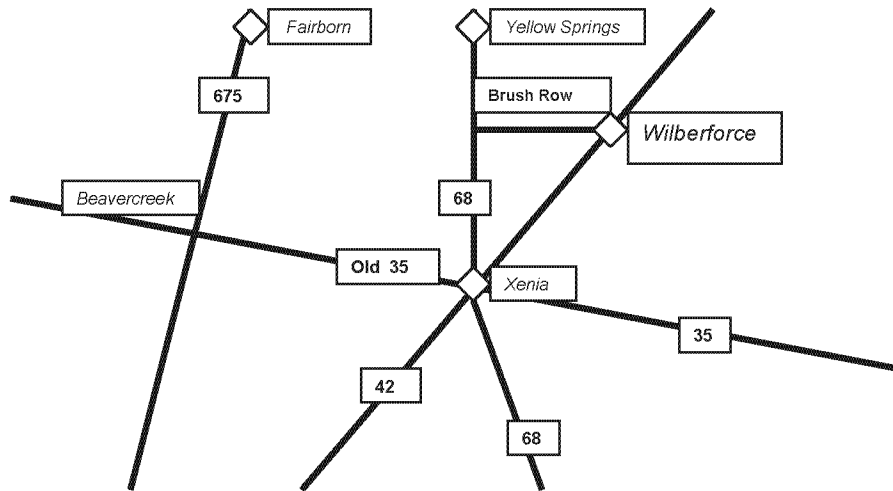
- A BUFM in CECS suggested that the Chair was interfering with the Faculty Development Committee's decisions regarding selections of potential reviewers for P&T. The GCO met with the BUFM and Chair to resolve the problem.
- The Administration notified AAUP-WSU of a potential faculty disciplinary action involving the misuse of a university vehicle. Subsequent investigation proved there was no inappropriate action on the part of the faculty member.
- BUFMs in CECS expressed concern about the process used by their Dean to hire the Chair of EE. Members of Executive Committee met with the Provost to discuss this issue.
- A BUFM in RSCOB received an incorrect annual evaluation. Arrangements were made to correct the problem.
- A BUFM in COLA asked to remove a disruptive student from class under Article 7 Section 6. The student was removed from the course.
- A BUFM in CEHS asked the GCO to attend a meeting with his Chair and Dean related to a disagreement among faculty members.
- A BUFM in COLA asked for help with a Chair's failure to follow rules outlined in the department by-laws related to a 3-year review.
- A BUFM in COLA asked the GCO to attend a disciplinary meeting regarding the BUFM's handling of disruptive students in class. It was suggested the faculty member use the CBA's Section 7.6 relating to removing disruptive students to avoid future problems.
- A BUFM in CECS asked for clarification of the content of a P&T document under past practice.
- A BUFM in CEHS was required to accept a Mac-PC instead of Windows-PC. A grievance was filed related to this type of computer problem.
- A BUFM in COSM asked for clarification of the P&T process related to rebuttal letters.
- A BUFM in CONH contacted AAUP-WSU after an intersession course in the online registration system was cancelled. AAUP-WSU was assured that Section 23.6 of the CBA requiring Provost approval to cancel a intersession course would be followed in the future.
- A BUFM in CEHS requested help with the Chair's decision to selectively apply criteria for annual evaluation. AAUP-WSU was assured that the bylaws criteria would be applied uniformly to all faculty in the department.
- A BUFM in COSM asked for clarification of the eligibility for PDL.
- A BUFM in CEHS asked for clarification on requirements for time-in-rank for promotion.
- A BUFM in RSCOB raised concern that actions on the part administration could create a situation leading to a disciplinary action. AAUP-WSU contacted the administration and was assured that the actions in question were inadvertent.
- A BUFM in COSM requested help with a request for information related to the process of evaluation and ranking of PDL applications.
- A BUFM in CONH asked for clarification on the requirements for faculty involvement in search committees for non-tenure track faculty.
- A BUFM in COLA related a series of problem with an appeals process handled through judicial affairs. Recommendations for modification to the University Academic Misconduct Policy were forwarded to the Faculty Senate.
- AAUP-WSU filed a grievance asserting the University was in violation of Section 18.1 of the CBA requiring the University to provide classrooms that are responsive to Bargaining Unit Faculty needs and consistent with standards of quality recognized at the national level. A series of remedies were requested and the University has agreed to implement all the suggest remedies.

AAUP Regional Faculty & Legislator Exchange

The WSU-AAUP members have a chance to discuss with Ohio legislators the future of higher education in the state and make them aware of other issues of concern to faculty.

The Ohio Conference AAUP is sponsoring a continental breakfast and legislator exchange which will be hosted by the Central State & Wright State AAUP Chapters at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20 at the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, 1350 Brush Row Road, Wilberforce adjacent to Central State University

Don't miss this chance to let members of the state legislature know how you feel about the status of higher education in the state. Please RSVP by February 16 to Pat Dalzine (pdalzine@centralstate.edu).



Winter Quarter Chapter Meeting

Friday, March 6, 2009

CTL Studio B on Main Campus and 223 Dwyer on Lake Campus at 1:30 p.m.

Because collective bargaining matters will be discussed only RCMs may attend.

Refreshments will be served.