

AAUP board minutes, University of Washington

16 April 2014 board meeting, UW Club, 3 pm to 5 pm

Attendance:

Executive board members present:

Rob Wood, Atmospheric Sciences, President
Amy Hagopian, Public Health, Secretary

At large board members present:

Jay Johnson, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, emeritus
Jack Lee, Mathematics, (and, incidentally, Chair of faculty senate)
Diane Morrison, School of Social Work
Jane Koenig, School of Public Health emeritus
Duane Storti, Mechanical Engineering

Guests:

Bert Stover, Env and Occ Health, prospective candidate for an at-large seat
Steve Schwartz
Mihaela Giurca, Extension Lecturer
Peter Messinger, Extension Lecturer

Not present:

Janelle Taylor, Anthropology, Treasurer
Steve Buck, Psychology
Dan Luchtel, School of Public Health
Christoph Giebel, Jackson School of International Studies, and History
Ann Mescher, Mechanical Engineering
Dan Jacoby, UW Bothell Interdisciplinary, Vice-president
Raya Fidel, Information School
Purnima Dhavan, History
Chuck Bergquist, History emeritus
Lucy Jarosz, Geography, list server
Elliot Swanson, work study student for AAUP
Scott Clifthorne, AAUP NW Coordinator <sciflthorne@aaup.org> 415.810.0652

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. AAUP's Higher education financing forum April 30
3. Stand up for Education event, April 29th
4. Provost welcome
5. Annual meeting and awards
6. Bangladesh Accord
7. Unpaid Internships
8. State / IRS registration

1. PCE Lecturers

Negotiations between the UW and PCE English language lecturers have now been underway three years, without much progress. We heard a report from Mihaela Giurca and Peter Messinger, who said their union (AFT-UWELF) is having a discussion of possible future actions to support contract negotiations.

Action: Jack Lee will invite the lecturers to present at Faculty Senate.

2. AAUP forum on Higher Ed financing

Scheduled 4/30 at 1:30 in Parrington Hall Commons.

We should publicize this more extensively.

Speakers to include: Bill Zumeta, Evans School professor; Larry Seaquist, Wa State House Higher Ed Committee; John Burbank, Economic Opportunity Institute; Karen Strickland, AFT/labor perspective. Dan will act as moderator.

Action: Dan is organizing. Rob will help with publicity. We need a flyer, which we could hand out at the 4/29 rally.

3. Stand up for Education event

SEIU and students are organizing a “Demand What’s Fair at Red Square” event on April 29 at 11:30 to 1:30 pm, with the aim to “Fully fund education from birth to graduation.”

Action: We will support this event by getting out the word.

4. Ana Mari Cauce conversation

(Have you always wondered how to pronounce her last name? Pronounced: “Cow-say”)

We had a free-flowing, broad ranging conversation with the Provost. We presented our 2013 Award to Ana Mari as “Friend of the Faculty,” along with an AAUP “Red Book.” Ana Mari expressed appreciation that AAUP provides a forum for faculty conversations, noting that a well functioning university requires groups that push from the edges. Rob expressed his appreciation that Ana Mari is very engaged with faculty as a Provost, which helps us all. We especially appreciated her willingness to convene a Task Force to address significant issues related to lecturers on the three UW campuses.

We discussed the early childhood (pre-K) education program the city is hoping to put on the ballot in the fall. Ana Mari mentioned the Bezos Family Foundation is funding Vroom, starting in South King County, to help parents think about early stimulation for kids. They’ve also donated to Early Learning and Brain Sciences at the UW. We discussed how long a person waits on the waiting list for childcare at the UW.

We discussed higher ed financing as a top priority for AAUP. The Constitution’s “paramount duty” to education funding doesn’t end at grade 12. [*Here is the full text from the Constitution:* “ARTICLE IX- EDUCATION, SECTION 1 PREAMBLE: It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex.” So it depends on whether one gets stuck on the definition of children.]

Dr. Cauce noted that our tax structure limits the capacity of the legislature to operate. She noted that any university statement about changes to the state tax structure would need to come from the Regents and she does not believe there is consensus from them on what changes, if any, would be desirable. They did not reach consensus on the high-end income tax a few years back. AAUP members noted the opportunity to curtail the corporate welfare we aim at Boeing and other large corporations as a way to generate more income; some Regents, however, are associated with businesses well served by the loopholes. Our Regents are appointed by the governor; in some states they are elected. Ana Mari believes the Regents are a “great, hard-working group of regents who care deeply about the university.” Faculty could engage more with the Regents, as well.

The Faculty Senate could directly acknowledge the effects of corporate loopholes on higher ed financing. AAUP could bring the Senate a resolution, as a next step. We discussed whether the UW’s

hands are tied by corporate philanthropy; Ana Mari didn't agree. The UW (Ana Mari) meets with the city's metropolitan power-brokers regularly (mayor, county executive, etc). A key issue: what can we do to promote progress without the rest of the state's support? Would the Kalamazoo scholarship policy example offer a model for King County?

Why does the University oppose Pay it Forward? Ana Mari has spoken with John Burbank. Pay it Forward just focuses on tuition, and only for public schools. She objected to wiping out Husky Promise to contribute to the PIF scheme. In Ana Mari's opinion, PIF does not do enough for poor kids and provides a free ride for the wealthy. Unless it was national, it would be extremely difficult to manage. It's basically a loan system with a very long payback. There is no cap, so one concern is if it's not a national policy and private schools aren't doing it, it discourages kids who aim to be wealthy from attending public school. They'd go to private schools for the high-income professions. There is an OPB brief on this:

http://opb.washington.edu/sites/default/files/opb/Policy/Pay_It_Forward_Updated_UW_Analysis_5.pdf. Some of the federal programs already tag income on loan repayment, those avenues are already available. Ana Mari prefers public sector loan repayment programs, especially for students who went to public school, and especially if they are income based.

What about massive student loan debt? This is driven in large part by for-profit universities. The privates are awash with federal money in the form of student debt underwriting. The debt may be keeping young people from taking interesting jobs that comprise public service, let alone buy a house or have children.

Ana Mari was asked about the selection of a new Professional and Continuing Education (PCE) director and the issues surrounding the PCE English lecturers. We are eager to having someone take the position who has an academic faculty standing and viewpoint, rather than a business background. Education Outreach (UWEO/PCE) creates a mechanism for funding and running programs, but only departments and schools "own" the degree programs and issue degrees. What are the numbers of PCE students in UW degree programs? Could be 20,000 FTE students at any time, perhaps (could that be true?). The School of Business has its OWN self-sustaining programs without using PCE, about a third of the business school's budget. Where will on-line degree completion program be located?

There are three primary characteristics of programs eligible for PCE/fee-based status. The degree should be offered:

1. in an alternative format from a "normal" degree in the department (eg, online, evening, alternative location, contracted to an organization)
2. to a non-traditional audience (part-time, professional, eg)
3. in highly interdisciplinary or experimental programs

Merely to deal with budget cuts is not enough motivation to transition a degree program to PCE. That's bad for the UW, if only because it deprives the Provost's office of a cut of state-based tuition. There is a current moratorium on transitioning existing programs to fee-based. There are a couple of programs that are currently fee-based that shouldn't be. Currently, Evans wants to offer a new MPA as a part-time evening/weekend program, geared towards working professionals. That would be a good candidate for PCE. The moratorium wouldn't affect a new program such as this MPA.

Myth: we have no cap on tuition for graduate programs, so PCE isn't the only vehicle for raising tuition. There were some very poorly done, abrupt transitions to PCE prior to Ana Mari.

UW is negotiating with the TA union about the cap on tuition payments (up to Tier 1) for those students.

The PCE lecturers who don't belong to a department (eg, the PCE-attached lecturers currently in negotiations) are not controlled by a department.

When faculty was getting raises in some departments and schools, lecturers were not always benefitted similarly. That discrepancy has been repaired.

Public health is a highly leveraged department; faculty are about 85% on soft money. Dr. Cauce has concerns about that and has spoken with the Dean about it.

We discussed community college reliance on contingent faculty, and the skyrocketing number of students in that system.

Concluding question: What is the way forward? As citizens, we have to work for a fairer tax system at the state and federal levels that can generate sufficient funds to support higher ed. The tax burden on highest income earners is far too low. We have work to do in Olympia to help our legislators and the governor better understand how higher ed finance works. We need to attract more legislators for visits, and get more faculty going to Olympia. There is no barrier to using the email system to (in general) attracting faculty to a Faculty Day in Olympia.

Action: AAUP (who?) will put together a resolution for the Faculty Senate on higher ed financing. We could approach the Regents directly. We could approach the Alumni Association about getting more engaged with the faculty on legislative education. (<http://www.uwimpact.org>) In general, we need to focus on this issue for the coming year in a serious way that gets faculty engaged with administration.

5. Annual meeting and awards

Rob will circulate the names of some nominees for our awards to be issued April 30.

Awards include:

1. Academic Freedom: 2013/2014 *Faculty Senate for passing new legislation.*
2. Excellence in shared governance: *(Amy nominated someone here)*
3. Leadership
4. Defender of higher education: *(Amy nominated someone here)*
5. Courage in pursuit of social justice
6. Squeaky Wheel
7. Friend of the Faculty

Action: Rob will circulate announcement for awards again, and will chair the awards committee.

6. Bangladesh Accord

We acknowledged the victory of the UW signing on to the Bangladesh Accord for its licensed products produced by companies abroad.

7. Unpaid Internships: Jay Johnson

Jay reported he has met with students and leaders in the School of Social Work. He'll report at next meeting.

Action: Jay is continuing to investigate the issue and will recommend next steps.

8. State registration: Amy Hagopian

Amy is waiting to know if we really do have to pay the \$850 fee to register with the IRS. National AAUP attorney is not responsive.

Action: Amy will keep working on the issues required to send in the state registration forms.

For next time:

Grievance handling

Extension lecturers

Faculty salary policy

Higher ed advocacy follow up

NEXT MEETING: Our annual open meeting and forum April 30th, Evans School Commons, 1:30 pm forum on higher ed & 3 pm annual meeting