AAUP board minutes, University of Washington

12 Nov 2014 board meeting, 3 pm to 5 pm, Atmospheric Sciences

**Attendance:**

***Executive committee members present:***

Rob Wood, Atmospheric Sciences, President

Amy Hagopian, Public Health, Secretary

Dan Jacoby, UW Bothell Interdisciplinary, Vice-president

Bert Stover, Environmental Health & Family Medicine, Treasurer

***At large board members present:***

Jay Johnson, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, emeritus

Christoph Giebel, Jackson School of International Studies, and History

Diane Morrison, School of Social Work

Jane Koenig, School of Public Health emeritus

Jack Lee, Mathematics

Duane Storti, Mechanical Engineering

Kari Lerum, UW Bothell

Bruce Kochis, UW Bothell

Libi Sundermann, UW Tacoma

***Guests:***

Larry Cushnie, larrycushnie@gmail.com, Seattle University

Michael Laslett, SEIU 925 organizing director

Devin Kelly, SEIU 925 researcher

Rod Palmquist

***Not present:***

Janelle Taylor, Anthropology, Treasurer

Dan Luchtel, School of Public Health

Ann Mescher, Mechanical Engineering

**Agenda:**

1. Salaita updates
2. Report on AAUP meeting with faculty senate leadership on UW public voice (including Genesee Adkins appointment)
3. ACTL committee composition and shared governance and conflict of interest concerns
4. AAUP Centennial declaration
5. AAUP representation at upcoming Regents meetings
6. Meetings at UWB and UWT
7. Union organizing

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**1. Salaita case and our chapter’s response**

We discussed the case of Professor Salaita at the University of Illinois, which is currently still unresolved. Professor Salaita’s job offer from the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana was rescinded over the summer, in response to his views on Palestine and Israel as expressed in social media outside the classroom.

Christoph recapped the main issues concerning the case: 1) Salaita’s academic freedom and extramural speech rights were violated without due process. 2) Outside donors, the board and administration ruled without faculty consultation. 3) The college council and the hiring department were shut out of the decision.

Members of our AAUP board had concerns about how we handled this. We have differences about what would have been the best response to the Salaita case, and found we couldn’t resolve these on email. As a result, we were not able to issue a statement when it was timely over the summer. We agreed it was now past the point where UW has anything much to contribute, but nonetheless our inability to resolve our internal debate in a timely manner was unfortunate. Some members of our board wanted to bring the AAUP’s position on academic boycotts into the statement, but others felt these were distractions and undermined the statement itself. Furthermore, the national AAUP leadership may be operating under double standards on its opposition to the Israeli academic boycott movement. For example, when AAUP places institutions on its censure list for not observing the generally recognized principles of academic freedom and tenure, that perhaps could be interpreted either as a warning or as a boycott, depending on one’s point of view (we wouldn’t schedule an AAUP summer institute at such an institution, right?)

Finally, we need to think about how the list server is run, and what the standards are for posting. Israel/Palestine issues are always a flashpoint on the list server. Some correspondents use inappropriate tactics/rhetoric that border on bullying. This includes private emails on the side that are quite hostile, and include charges of anti-Semitism where they don’t apply. The student’s Palestine support group, SUPER, was also smeared in quite hurtful ways on our list server.

As to the use of the list server, we want to avoid postings that detract from the long-term usefulness of the list server. Rob (as listserver moderator) said that when a correspondent includes an attack on an individual, he asks that person to edit the message to reduce ad hominem attacks. During particularly active periods, it takes Rob a lot of time, of course, to do that. Duane suggested the subject header be modified to more clearly represent the content. Another practical response is, “You have every right to do this, but you have other avenues for doing so.” Can we move topics to a sidebar forum that involves only those who subscribe to it? Our moderator can also forward individual emails to individuals without posting to the list server. A review of the Salaita posts revealed many attempts to derail the conversation to issues that were off-topic: e.g., what happened in Gaza, whether Salaita’s views were “civil,” and so on.

Clearly, we could have had more success if the timing of events had allowed us to meet in person. In sum, the Salaita issue raised issues and this was an opportunity to air those.

***Actions***: The AAUP list server is owned by the board, and we support Rob in his judgments in how to moderate. People whose posts are rejected can appeal to the board at its next meeting. The list server has its own guidelines, already written. For hot topics, Rob will appoint an ad hoc committee to draft statements that then go to a vote. Let’s make a stronger effort to get together in person, even informally, when the issues are hot. It would be ideal for us to avoid silence on these important issues.

**2. Meeting with faculty senate leadership on UW public voice**

Rob, Jack and Amy met with Kate O’Neill (Faculty Senate Chair), JoAnn Taricani (Faculty Senate legislative rep) and Norman Beauchamp (Faculty Senate Vice Chair) on 10/20/14 to discuss how faculty might be better mobilized to engage with the legislature and the state’s public. Amy sent a follow up email summarizing the components of the meeting. See summary of meeting below. We have noticed Genesee Adkins is the new UW lobbyist (now that Margaret Shepherd, director of state relations, has moved out of the role).

***Actions***: We will continue to attempt to engage around UW state relations concerning higher ed funding; Perhaps meet with Genesee Adkins.

**3. Concerns of Shared Governance & Representation in ACTL**

Rod Palmquist sent a memo from the student members of the Advisory Committee on Trademarks and Licensing (ACTL) to discuss with us concerns about the current composition of that committee. It includes four voting administrators who possess significant institutional conflicts of interest, which impedes the UW’s ability to effectively enforce its own Labor Code of Conduct for apparel licensees.

To improve ACTL’s ability to independently evaluate allegations of labor rights violations, we discussed how to overhaul the committee’s structure. Given concerns about the composition of ACTL, it may be time for the AAUP and/or the Faculty Senate conduct a university-wide audit of advisory committees to assess whether these committees’ structures reflect the principles of shared governance. This was in our strategic plan.

***Actions***: Rob will express our concerns with the ACTL committee makeup to the Faculty Senate leadership.

**4. AAUP Centennial declaration**

There is a sign-on statement from AAUP national. <http://www.aaup.org/news/centennial-declaration>

We noted especially the item: The university is a public good, not a private profit-making institution, and corporations or business interests should not dictate teaching or research agendas.

***Action***: Amy can post the sign-on statement to the website.

**5. Regents meetings**

Amy suggested we have a more regular presence at the Regents meetings.

***Action***: Amy will circulate the meeting dates and times, including interesting committee meetings (Facilities Asset Management, Student Affairs, Governance). We’ll divide up the dates and see if we can keep a closer eye on the Regents. Ideally, we’d sign up for a 2-minute slot at the start of the meetings. Also, we’ll announce the meetings on the list server.

**6. Meetings in Bothell and Tacoma**

We would like to schedule times to meet with the Faculty Assembly at Tacoma and the General Faculty Organization in Bothell. Tacoma is still searching for a Chancellor. Desired outcomes from these excursions would include: membership increase, invite faculty to hear about AAUP, share our history, meet & greet (food & wine).

We will host Rovy Brannon at our January 21 meeting, so it makes it hard to schedule our trip for that date. Instead, we will hold our February meeting at UWT.

***Action***: Rob will confirm our meeting January 21 with new vice Provost Rovy Brannon, and work to find a good date for trips to Tacoma and Bothell. Libi Sundermann has offered to help set up a meeting with interested faculty to take place immediately before or after our EB meeting at UWT

**7. Union Organizing**

In response to our Spring survey indicating significant interest in unionization, the Board invited guests to explore what a unionization campaign might achieve and what it would entail.  Following decided to keep this exploratory conversation going.

***Action***: We’d like to talk more with others to get advice: national AAUP, WWU’s Bill Lyne. Has AAUP partnered with other unions before do organize campuses? Rob will do little homework on what R1 comprehensive universities have unionized—and are those contingent or all faculty?

**NEXT MEETINGS:** Jan 21 (Room 406 ATG Building) ~~with Rovy Brannon~~, Feb 18, March 18, April 15, May 13. Annual meeting May 27.

**APPENDIX:**

Summary of meeting 20 October 2014 with Rob, Jack and Amy met with Kate O’Neill (Faculty Senate Chair), JoAnn Taricani (Faculty Senate legislative rep) and Norm Beauchamps (Faculty Senate Chair-Elect)

1) The faculty, students, staff, and administration can likely agree on a **unifying statement** to summarize our advocacy strategy, something like: “Washington students deserve access to higher education that is world class, affordable, and supported by stable, public funding that is sufficient and reliable.”  [Note, by contrast, the Stand Up 4 Education message, which AAUP has signed on to:  "Fully Fund Education from Birth to Graduation--Education from early learning to college is dangerously underfunded in our state because Washington corporations do not pay their fair share. While education goes underfunded, Washington corporations get over $2.3 billion a year in tax breaks and make record profits. It’s time corporations pay their fair share.”]

2) We hope to better understand the work of **UW Impact**. The survey of legislators it conducted is interesting, but needs some summary data, both by question and by legislator (for example, a “summary grade”).  We hope UW Impact can do the important work of reaching out to students and their parents to generate messages to reach legislators from outside the greater Seattle area.

3) We could craft some approaches to respond to the question of how **efficiently we deliver** our “world class” education.

4) We **don’t have unity on the issue of undergraduate tuition** increases this year. ASUW has called for tuition freezes to extend to 2015/2016.

5) We haven’t ever worked much on communicating to legislators that chronic underfunding leaves **graduate education in our state increasingly unaffordable.**

6) We are open to a dialogue with John Burbank, at the Economic Opportunity Institute, about the **Pay It Forward** concept, which is likely to come up in the legislature this year. [For my homework, I called John and he would like to meet with us.]

7) JoAnn said the **UW legislative priorities for 2015** have been set, but I couldn’t find them. Reportedly it includes capital projects (we were hoping not too many new athletic facilities).  I found [2014 priorities here](https://www.washington.edu/cms/staterelations/files/2014/01/2014-UW-Legislative-Agenda-Updated.pdf). We agreed for the people in the room our priorities would include: no cuts to the UW, and fully fund the state need grants. That’s pretty modest.

8) **New revenues are needed** to protect higher education in Washington State. The only non-regressive way to do that is to close tax loopholes, impose capital gains taxes, adopt corporate income taxes, and/or impose a personal income tax (at least on high earners). We would also likely agree on Speaker Chopp’s proposed dedicated funding stream (a sales tax on professional services). [My personal plea: we need to stop saying things like, “the state isn’t ready for an income tax.” The more we use that sort of negative language, the more self fulfilling it is. Better language: "We haven’t yet adopted an income tax in Washington State, but since we are among only 7 states that don’t have this form of progressive taxation, it’s only a matter of time before we realize it is the only sensible way to fund the state’s needs.”]

8) A next step is to **collect short stories**, talking points, and important concepts to help craft legislative communications. Kate was going to launch a google doc that we can all edit or add to.

Submitted by Amy Hagopian, Hagopian@uw.edu