AAUP board minutes, University of Washington

15 Oct 2014 board meeting, 3 pm to 5 pm, UW Club

**Attendance:**

***Executive board 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

Janelle Taylor, Anthropology, Treasurer

Duane Storti, Mechanical Engineering

Kari Lerum, UW Bothell

Bruce Kochis, UW Bothell

***Guests:***

Hayden Harvey, WashPIRG campus organizer (hayden@washpirgstudents.org), 406-570-6609

Cynthia Meng, Textbooks campaign organizer (cynthiamj714@gmail.com), 206-596-1528

Garrett Strain, United Students Against Sweatshops

Rod Palmquist, Evans School student and organizer

Chuck Bergquist, History emeritus

***Not present:***

Dan Luchtel, School of Public Health

Ann Mescher, Mechanical Engineering

Libi Sundermann, UW Tacoma

**Agenda:**

1. Review of strategic plan
2. WASHPirg textbook concerns (with guests)
3. Bangladeshi garment workers (with guests)
4. Revisting the incentives for loyal faculty (vs. retention bonuses)

DEFERRED:

1. Discussion of resolutions by email and voting practices
2. Salaita updates
3. Meetings at UWB and UWT
4. Academic showcase for UW

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**1. WashPIRG textbook cost reduction campaign**

WashPIRG visitors presented their case for reducing costs of textbooks. Students are a captive market, and textbook companies charge accordingly (using the brutal rules of capitalism). WashPIRG is promoting the use of “open textbooks” and other ways to hold down costs. Faculty shared their views on the large effort that goes into writing textbooks, and the low resulting compensation to authors. Who supports the production of open access textbook publishing? What are the profit margins? See the handout.

***Actions***: WashPIRG people will try to find case studies of best practices in low-cost publishing, including stories from faculty who have produced texts using open access. They will explore and report on library solutions, and identify other sharing network solutions. WashPIRG may also be able to identify better publishing options for faculty (Amazon?!).

We will consider jointly sponsoring a forum with WashPIRG on this issue later in the year.

**2. Guest introduced from United Students Against Sweatshops**

Garrett Strain came to introduce the issue of working conditions for garment workers in Bangladesh, and to promote the Bangladesh Safety Accord. Both **Jansport** and **Columbia,** which supply the UW, have links to UW apparel.

The University’s “shared governance” Advisory Committee on Trademarks & Licensing committee, which advises the president, is discussing this issue tomorrow.

We discussed the composition of the ACTL, which is a bit unclear, but seems to have evolved over time to become more administration dominated. The website of the committee is quite outdated, including the composition and the meeting dates. The trademarks commission and athletic staff salaries are clearly tied to revenues flowing from athletic apparel sales. Margaret Levi, the former chair, was an important and valuable person on the committee, but she left in April. The committee now seems administration dominated.

***Actions***: AAUP will take a close look at the composition and charters of advisory committees, such as the “corporate suppliers” committee; let’s get a list of these to start. Then we will pursue a set of standing principles.

**3. Guests introduced from Higher Ed**

Rod Palmquist talked about the work ahead to stop budget cuts to the UW. We discussed how “carry forward” funds at the college level are targets.

***Actios***: Palmquist will work on a memo outlining the issues.

**4. Strategic plan updates**

Jack reported that he had met with Libi and Kate to discuss the formation of an Instructional Professor track. This would not be coming from AAUP but from FCSA.

***Action***: Rob will circulate the mission statement for any final edits.

Amy can post the plan to the website.

**5. Unionizing**

Rob reported on a meeting to advance this portion of our strategic plan. We’ll follow up.

***Action***: There is a meeting to be scheduled in November.

**6. Incentive for loyal faculty**

Duane Storti proposed we encourage the UW to make salary awards to address decompression of long-serving faculty. This should be done in advance of adopting the new Salary policy. Under current policy, we give competitive salaries only to those who threaten to leave or to new hires. How are we by rank progression, and by peer progression?

We noted differences across departments are more significant than they used to be, before ABB.

Duane asked whether we could circulate a calculation tool for faculty to use to estimate how compressed their own salaries are. We could do it officially, and link it to discussions of the faculty salary policy. People are under-informed about it.

***Action***: Duane will compose a List Server message inviting people to use the salary calculation tool.

**NEXT MEETINGS:** Nov. 12 (Room 406 ATG Building), Jan 21 (Room 406 ATG Building), Feb 18, March 18, April 15, May 13.

Annual meeting May 27.