

Illinois AAUP State Conference Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2010, 10:30 a.m.

Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Il.

Present: Michael Harkins, president, Harper College, Ken Andersen, UIUC, treasurer, Leo Welch, SWIC, guest and afternoon speaker Harry Hilton from UIUC, John Wilson, Joerg Tiede, IWU, Kurt Field, Bradley University, Lee Maltby, secretary, St. Augustine College

1. Meeting was called to order by Michael Harkins, followed by welcome & warm greeting from Dr. Epstein, professor of education and Dean of the Faculty
2. Minutes of April 17, 2010 were approved after a few minor edits.
3. President's report—Michael Harkins reported that website is proving to be valuable in a number of ways. Also that there are a number of efforts being made to improve and increase membership around the state. Michael reported that faculty around the state are under great stress—layoffs & suspensions, etc. Council also needs to begin working earlier on the election of delegates for the national conference. There are many details still being worked out re: the election process vis a vis national. It is possible that the expense for the spring election could run to 4k to 5k—annually. Status of the tri-partite division of AAUP is still not settled. Michael then shared some of the messy details regarding the election process for delegates last spring. The process for next spring remains murky and unsettled.

This summer Michael attended three hearings involving faculty who were facing disciplinary measures from their institutions. Michael's presence was requested by national. It appears that his primary function was to help assure that due process was followed. In some cases the faculty 'leap frogged' directly to national and did not involve ILL AAUP. These cases did not involve unionized faculty.

Michael distributed materials from the HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE STUDY COMMISSION, which met at Harper College on August 30, 2010. Michael requested that members review this material in order to understand the issues involved and to be prepared if needed in the future. Prime objective of the study is to move to a performance based merit system based upon several factors of 'success', such as graduation rates, retention, etc. Joerg raised the question of whether the conference should take a stance regarding this proposal. Michael recommended that the council review the materials and then consider what, if any, action the conference might take.

Michael reported on election dates for next year: begin process in January, email nominations in February, March construction of ballot, April election, certified results in May sent to national. Council needs to assure that those elected attend the conference! Council could issue guidelines for delegates to report attendance at the conference. Michael reminded the council that the conference will continue to 'cost share' the

expenses of attending the conference in DC. Ken conjectured why national does not assist state chapters more regarding the election of delegates.

April 2011 is our projected month for next conference. Question: Should the council survey state chapters regarding a location for the conference? But where are the active chapters? Ken will see if funding for a grad assistant could be found in order to seek out active chapters. Lee will request an updated membership from national to see which chapters may be active. Date for conference tentatively approved for April 16, 2011.

Michael raised issue of committees and opportunity for individuals to sign up. Conference in DC is coming up (as usual) in June. Please submit news briefs for website. John asked if we should have a communications committee to facilitate emails, website, etc. Joerg suggested that the conference have a shared governance committee. Related to this issue of shared governance, a sidebar conversation then began related to a major proposal for the re-organization of the UI system.

Discussion then followed as to the location of the state conference and cooperating with other higher ed organizations such as the NEA and the AFT. Suggestions also followed related to promoting the value of membership and state chapters.

4. Treasurer's report from Ken Andersen then followed, including a review of the budget. Ken reported that the bank where the conference keeps its funds is very weak and perhaps the account should be moved to another bank. Council then gave approval for Ken to move the funds as he sees fit (and inform the Executive Committee as to where the money has been deposited!).
5. Lee had no report but suggested that it could benefit spring conference attendance by giving notice as soon as possible to the members by monthly email updates.
6. Lee gave an update on activity at DePaul regarding Committee A activities.
7. Joerg Tiede reported on membership. Joerg has some leads for chapter formation at COD, ISU, and North Central College. Joerg also mentioned idea of having presentations for presidents of chapters—how to form a chapter, etc. Joerg reported that 14 institutions in Illinois are facing severe financial issues with possible major repercussions for faculty. Joerg asked for assistance to help support chapter formation. Again, Lee will request an updated membership list from national, as well as any information to which institutions have active chapters.
8. At approximately 12:15 the council took a lunch break (chicken with curry vegetables, yum!).
9. Website—striving to be balanced and up to date. Michael reported that the number of 'hits' is rising, especially when emails announcing AAUP events are received by members. The value of sending out monthly emails was also discussed, as well as the pro's and con's of the state conference sending out its own emails.

10. Illinois Academe—deadline is 10/10 for articles. John mentioned a few possible articles that may appear. John requested suggestions for the new layout he will be using for the next issue.

11. New business—elections. Michael wants a committee to determine who will be re-upping on the council. And perhaps there are some people we want to add to the council. Leo and Ken will contact potential members for council and will serve as the election committee to create a slate for next spring.

Spring conference—location, topic/theme. Springfield was suggested as location, with the idea of offering an incentive, such as a travel stipend to attend the conference. Theme: Future of Higher Ed in Illinois? A number of names for speakers were suggested. Another topic: impact of insurance reform on educational institutions. Peoria also suggested as location. Another topic: shared governance, workshops for small institutions., such as chapter development. Another topic: the MAP program. Faculty benefits: health and pension. Also, it is preferred to have institution host conference, not just in a particular location. Issue of closing units and impact on faculty. Another option: noon luncheon and workshop for small institutions. Again, stipend/travel allowance to attract attendees. Pay full mileage for one member in good standing, but must bring others! And give them a Red Book. Ken: make a packet of info for attendees.

Location: tbd. Solicit offers via email. Perhaps North Central in Naperville, or Bradley in Peoria, or again, IWU is central location. Michael will construct email to send out regarding ideas for location of conference.

12. Adjournment at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Maltby, secretary