

Michigan Conference

American Association of University Professors



President's Column by President Tom Dietz

On Saturday, April 3, the Michigan Conference AAUP celebrated 50 years of service to higher education. The program for the day focused on the public perception of higher education in Michigan – and how to change it. National AAUP leaders including Mary Burgan, AAUP General Secretary; Ernst Benjamin, former General Secretary of the AAUP; Tom Guild, Chair of the Assembly of State Conferences; and Ariel Anderson, Chair of the Collective Bargaining Congress, were in attendance. There was good attendance as chapters from across the state were represented.

I want to especially thank MIAAUP Vice-President Joel Russell from Oakland University, Executive Director Robert Grosvenor, and Administrative Assistant LeAnn Voigtritter for their hard work in making the 50th An-

nual Meeting such a success. Vice-President Russell organized the excellent panels for the morning and afternoon sessions. Bob Grosvenor worked tirelessly to make all the arrangements for rooms, meals, and the like as well as making numerous trips to the airport to chauffeur our guests. LeAnn took care of the “nuts-and-bolts” details that insured that the meeting went off smoothly.

The Annual Meeting saw the election of officers as well. Vice-President Russell was re-elected to a second term. George Monsma of Calvin College was re-elected to the Board. New Board members elected included Joel Boyd of Western Michigan University and Anthony Travis of Grand Valley State University. Sally McCracken of Eastern Michigan University was elected to the Board to complete the final year of a term on the Board. I was re-elected to a second term as President.

The message we heard from our panelists during the Annual Meeting was not pessimistic but sobering. The state government will continue to face a difficult financial situation even if the economy improves and revenue increases because of impending changes in the tax system and rising costs in other sectors supported by the state General Fund budget. I won't elabo-

rate on those issues; I'm certain many of our members are familiar with the overall dimensions of the problem. I would urge everyone, particularly in this election year, to keep informed about the economy and the state budget situation. Ignorance is not bliss.

I also want to encourage chapter leaders to consider sending representatives to both the AAUP Annual Meeting, June 10-13 in Washington DC. Bob Grosvenor has already arranged appointments for us Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow on Thursday, June 10. This is an excellent opportunity to let our Michigan Senators hear from the Michigan AAUP regarding issues that directly affect us from the re-authorization of the Higher Education Act to concerns about academic freedom in the context of the “war on terrorism.” The Professors Fund for Educational Issues will offer two stipends of \$250 each to allow chapters with limited resources to send a delegate to the Meeting.

In addition, PFEI will offer \$250 scholarships to chapters with limited resources to underwrite the costs of sending a member to the AAUP Summer Institute to be held this year at the University of Scranton. The Institute is scheduled for July 31 – August 2. Additional information is available on the AAUP website. Chapters interested

MICHIGAN STATE REPORTS

By Sheila Teahan

in PFEI scholarships should contact Bob Grosvenor at the Michigan Conference office in Lansing.

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, the Michigan Conference continues to be very active in chapter development activities. In addition to our pilot project with the AAUP to build chapters at several institutions including the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Grand Valley State, and Delta Community College, we have worked very closely with Michigan Technological University in Houghton. The MTU Chapter recently submitted a petition to the Michigan Employment Relations Commission to conduct an election to recognize a collective bargaining unit. We have also worked with new Chapter President, Grover Hudson, to strengthen the AAUP chapter at Michigan State University.

Finally, I want to close my recognizing the service of two members of the MIAAUP Board who did not seek re-election. Paul Wilson of Western Michigan University and Grover Hudson of Michigan State University have contributed greatly to the deliberations of the Board over the past several years. We will miss their counsel but know that both remain active in their local chapters.

As the academic year draws to a close, I want to wish everyone a relaxing and re-invigorating summer. Whether you plan to travel, research, write, or simply refresh yourself for the new year this fall, enjoy! I hope to see many of you in Washington in June.

Think AAUP!!

The MSU chapter is active on many fronts, and our membership grows rapidly. We recently held our first election in about a decade. In that election, Grover Hudson was elected president, Scott Michaelsen was elected vice-president, Richard Peterson was elected Secretary-Treasurer, and Howard Brody, Debra Nails and Sheila Teahan were elected to the Executive Board, where Colletta Moser serves as past president. Iris Molotsky of the national AAUP was guest speaker at our chapter meeting in late February, and she has been centrally involved in our current membership drive. With the assistance of national, we will send out a membership drive letter that both explains the role of AAUP in our academic welfare and specifically addresses our situation at MSU. That situation is complex, with regard to the issues of academic freedom and faculty governance that AAUP defines and defends. We have been presented with a major reorganization plan affecting multiple colleges whose initiation largely bypassed faculty governance structures, and the university has just announced a plan to expand and/or move large parts of the College of Human Medicine to Grand Rapids—a plan with no clear curricular or educational justification and whose implementation appears to involve a major dislocation of faculty, students, and departments. The AAUP is also playing a central role in the organization of the first meeting in fifteen years of Academic Senate, where we hope to address the larger governance issues reflected in the medical school and reorganization questions. And, finally, we have been vigilant in examining policies that affect the research lives of faculty. Mark Smith has delivered to us a formal written judgment on behalf of AAUP that finds MSU's intellectual property policy to be in violation of AAUP guidelines in several respects, and the AAUP Committee A is currently considering a proposed conflict of interest policy that would require all faculty to sign an annual statement of compliance, and that threatens those who fail to comply with disciplinary action. We are extremely grateful to the national AAUP for assistance in all of these efforts.

SENATORIAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The Michigan Delegation to the AAUP National Meeting is scheduled to meet with Senator Debbie Stabenow in her office at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, June 10, and with Senator Carl Levin in his office at 2:00 p.m. the same day.

WAYNE STATE REPORTS SOME PROGRESS

By President Charles J. Parrish

The coming of Nancy Barrett to Wayne State as Provost has made for a big change. It is her influence that has resulted (along with some sharp increases in enrollment due to various causes) that has led to our weathering the financial storm without cuts to the academic side and, in fact, our being able to continue recruitment of new faculty.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN REPORT

By Frank Case

In February of this year I was asked by the AAUP Washington office and the Michigan Conference to work for six months on a membership drive focusing on the University of Michigan, Grand Valley State University, and Delta College. Having retired two years ago from Eastern Michigan University where I taught for forty years, I thought that my many years in collective bargaining, as well as my dedication to the AAUP chapter at EMU, would be helpful in my discussions with faculty members in these institutions.

As most of you know, at EMU we had to strike several times in order to maintain basic faculty rights, health benefits, workload, and a host of related matters. However, my present activity for the AAUP is simply to recruit as many new members as possible to the non-collective bargaining part of the AAUP. A strong AAUP chapter is the best way to establish shared governance and to protect faculty from the whim and will of bloated administrations headed by business CEO types, who have little or no scholarly credentials and little or no classroom teaching experience.

At the University of Michigan, Delta College, and Grand Valley State University, I found willing listeners to my pitch for membership in the AAUP. Quite a number of faculty in these schools have been members but simply forgot to renew. They thought they were still members. Others did not know many details about the organization. They were, however, eager to learn about member benefits provided by the AAUP.

I believe I have been successful in bringing new members to the AAUP, but there is much yet to be done. In that regard, it is essential for the chapter presidents in the Michigan Conference to launch their own membership drives within their chapters. Growth in membership arises from within. Chapter presidents need to initiate drives by selecting several seasoned faculty in their chapters to set about gaining new members. This can only be done by contacting colleagues in person. For supporting materials about member benefits, chapter presidents can call on the Michigan Conference Executive Director, Bob Grosvenor (miaaup@aol.com). He can apply directly to the na-

tional office for information and distribute this information to the chapter presidents. At the least, the leaders of the membership drives can fill their colleagues' mailboxes with AAUP materials, along with a note about the importance of AAUP membership.

I strongly believe in the AAUP's central importance to higher education in the United States in terms of its longstanding support for academic freedom, shared governance, and other related matters that most of us are familiar with. There is another aspect of the AAUP that deserves recognition, too. That concerns the fellowship within the academy where we are intrinsically related to each other in a great intellectual enterprise. Only in modern times has there been such a dedicated attempt to educate millions in a thriving democracy.

There is a common link to one another in our profession that is felt from one end of our country to the other—and, of course, internationally. The AAUP represents this bond through providing a national voice in support of higher education faculty. There are other professional associations, but none as grounded in idealism as the AAUP.

The fellowship of educators is valuable in many subtle ways, not just for the promotion of new discoveries and ideas. In the hurly-burly of our work, we simply enjoy the company we keep. There is a sororal and fraternal component to university life that engages our interest in what all of us do in our various disciplines.

I am reminded of something a British professor once said to an incoming class in London. According to him, we delight in the academic life where we are able to enter into another person's thoughts at a moment's notice; where conversation is an art; where one develops the ability to concentrate fully on complex, intricate matters; where wit is possible; where one gains in compassion and pity for those less fortunate than oneself; where distinctions in thought are possible; where one develops skill in recognizing paradox and the need for reason; where knowledge and insight thrive and their soft and sometimes hard shadows protect us from many illusions; where we learn about the world and thankfully about ourselves.

Despite all the turmoil of our lives in and out of the academy, thousands of professors unite intellectually to serve society in ways that advance skills in art, sci-

ence, and letters. In all of this, we feel privileged to share life with each other in a manner that fosters freedom of thought and common objectives.

The AAUP is a bonding element for faculty across the United States. How could anyone not want to be a member of such a strong and good association? We, it is said, are “known by the company we keep.” When we are members of the AAUP, we are in good company. Let’s build the membership. Franklin Case, Professor Emeritus Eastern Michigan University

SUMMER INSTITUTE

Sheila Teahan, Associate Professor, English Department, Michigan State University and David Chesney, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Michigan Technological University, will be attending the AAUP Summer Institute at the University of Scranton, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

MICHIGAN TECH CHAPTER FILES FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ELECTION

MTU Chapter President Bruce Barna reports that the chapter has achieved a solid majority of signed authorization cards and filed for a collective bargaining election on April 2. The election is expected to be held in May. President Barna is very confident that faculty members will vote in overwhelming numbers to select AAUP as their collective bargaining representative.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY CHAPTER

By Jo Wiley, Information Officer

Unfortunately, our Chapter is involved in a “mega-grievance” against the WMU administration regarding failure to provide the healthcare for faculty and their families as negotiated in summer 2003. We anticipated a long, arduous process when the grievance was filed and the administration’s initial response gives us no reason to think differently.

Even though it sometimes seems the Chapter remains caught in a negotiation-related quagmire, this past year of union activity has been positive in many ways. Our Chapter Mobilization Committee was reactivated, under the leadership of Allen Zagarell (Anthropology) and William Santiago-Valles (Africana Studies). Faculty focus groups met during Spring semester to help identify the needs of recently hired faculty and determine ways the Chapter can better reach out to this group. And, after many months of preparation, filming and production, plans are underway for a preview celebration and release of a DVD documenting the Chapter’s history through the recollections of past AAUP presidents.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AAUP CHAPTER

The UM Ann Arbor AAUP Chapter will hold its Annual Meeting at 12:00 Noon, in the Pond Room, of the Michigan Union. Attendees can get food from the University Club Buffet starting at 11:30 a.m. Senator Liz Brater is their guest speaker. All AAUP members are urged to attend.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2003-2004

Friday, June 25 - Data Workshop - EMU Library
Saturday, June 26 - Executive Board Meeting - EMU
Saturday, September 11 - Executive Board Meeting - Lansing
Saturday, November 20 - Executive Board Meeting - WMU
Tuesday, February 15 - Legislative Reception & Board Meeting - Lansing
Saturday, April 1 - 51st Annual Meeting - Lansing

FREE DATA WORKSHOP OFFERED JUNE 25

By Marc Cogan

The Workshop will provide an introduction to, and an opportunity for hands-on practice with, the major on-line public data resources for higher education analysis. Covered will be (1) The IPEDS database maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics, (2) the WebCASPAR data base maintained by the National Science Foundation, and (3) the Guidestar database of Federal 990 forms for private universities and foundations.

The IPEDS database is the most comprehensive database available on-line for higher education data regarding enrollment, staffing and finances. It covers institutions in all sectors of higher education.

WebCASPAR is useful for very long-term longitudinal analyses, and is particularly strong in the areas of science and engineering.

Guidestar makes it possible to keep an eye on those pesky and mysterious development foundations our schools are spawning.

To the extent time permits, other sources of on-line higher education data will be briefly introduced.

LOCATION

The free Workshop will be held in Room 110 of the Bruce T. Halle Library on the Eastern Michigan University Campus. A campus map is available at: www.emich.edu/halle/halle_directions.html.

It will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A box lunch will be provided

There are 25 computer terminals available in the computer laboratory.

REGISTRATION

We'd like to have each chapter enroll one member immediately so each chapter will have an opportunity to participate.

On June 1st we will notify all chapters if there are any available spaces left so you can send more than one member.

Every chapter should send one representative to this very valuable and informative workshop.

To register simply send your name and institution to Director Bob Grosvenor at: miaaup@aol.com

DELTA COLLEGE

By Maqsood Choudary

The Contract for the next year is still being negotiated. The salary committee is meeting the faculty on April 14 to update on the negotiations and the options for health contract. Three vendors were contacted by the Medical Insurance committee and have made its recommendations to the administration.

It is not clear what are the recommendations. The salary committee is, however, in picture and bring the issue in April 14 meeting.

Faculty positions vacated due to retirements are being filled. The admission office and the administration is expecting a higher enrollment due to the job market situation and rise of tuition cost at Michigan regional universities.

REMOVAL OF CENSURE ON OLIVET COLLEGE UNDER CONSIDERATION

By Jordan Kurland

I take pleasure in informing you, as Executive Director of the Michigan Conference, that removing censure on the administration of Olivet College is currently under consideration. Although Olivet stopped granting tenure back in the 1970s, the administration and the board chair have now agreed to changes in policies that will require them to demonstrate cause in a faculty hearing before a faculty member with over seven years of service can be released. The administration has also made a settlement offer in the one remaining case, dating from the 1980s, that had not been resolved. The board is scheduled to act on the policy changes at its meeting later this month, and we have arranged for an AAUP representative, our Council member Debra Nails, to visit the college the following week and provide us with her impression of the current climate for academic freedom.

National Council member Debra Nails from Michigan State is scheduled to visit Olivet College April 28 for an on-site inspection. This will enable her to report to National AAUP for possible lifting of the censure at the June Annual Meeting.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION AND HIGHER EDUCATION

By Grover Hudson

A two-hour panel discussion at the MIAAUP 50th Annual Meeting had presentations from Earl Ryan, President of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan; Lori Hendricks, a researcher of the Kellogg Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good (of UM); and Dan Hurley, Director of University Relations and Administrative Services of the Presidents' Council of of State Universities of Michigan. Ryan presented a bleak picture of prospects for funding of Michigan government services, including higher education, given an expected continuing trend of costs outstripping revenues to the state. Hendricks reported a national survey of public opinion on higher education. For example, it appears that while the public believes in the importance of diversity, including racial diversity, in the university student body, it tends to oppose admission policies that encourage this. Hurley reported on a last-December survey of Michigan voters. Michigan voters appear to support continued accessibility to higher education achieved by lower tuition, but don't put this high on their list of concerns; highway conditions are considerably more important. Those surveyed did not believe that Michigan should move in the direction of other states, increasing the amount of state funds vs. tuition to fund public universities.

50TH ANNUAL MEETING PICTURES



Grover Hudson introduces his panel



Grover Hudson, Earl Ryan,
Lori Hendricks and Dan Hurley



Sally McCracken, President, EMU



Mary Burgan "AAUP and the
Will to Believe - Final Reflections"



Tom Guild "Critical Issues
Facing the Academy"

SCENES FROM THE 50TH ANNUAL MEETING



Marc Cogan and Ernie Benjamin



Tom Dietz and Grover Hudson
(receives plaque for 4 years of service)



Peggie Hollingsworth, Ronald Lomax
and Tad Smith, UM



Rochelle Black, John Burkhardt, Larry Steckelberg,
Sen. Deb Cherry and Ariel Anderson



Tom Guild presents Tom Dietz with a
50th Birthday Card and special painting



Ernie Benjamin
General Secretary (Emeritus)



Tom Dietz and Ernie Benjamin

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AAUP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Note: When you join, your membership will extend for twelve months from the month payment is received in the national office.

Full-time – AAUP & Michigan Conference & Chapter - \$184

Entrant* - AAUP & Michigan Conference & Chapter - \$114

Part-time – AAUP & Michigan Conference & Chapter - \$62

*Entrant membership is offered to non-tenured faculty for four years.

Check Membership category: Full-time Entrant Part-time

Name _____

Institution _____

Preferred mailing address _____

Daytime Telephone (_____) _____ E-Mail _____

Tenured Yes No Academic Rank & Field _____

Payment:

Check: Amount enclosed \$ _____ Make check payable to: AAUP

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I hereby authorize AAUP to charge my credit card my annual dues in three consecutive monthly payments.

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Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: AAUP, P.O. Box 96132, Washington, DC 20077-7020