

**Minutes, Conference Business Meeting**

**November 5, 2011; Middle Tennessee State University; Murfreesboro**

The business meeting followed a program of informational speakers and discussion that included Dr. Warren Nichols, vice chancellor for community colleges, Tennessee Board of Regents; Dr. Rich Rhoda, executive director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission; Professor Flora Setayesh, Nashville State Community College and member of the TBR task force on adjunct faculty; and Professor Alfred Lutz, Middle Tennessee State University and member of the TBR faculty sub-council.

Members were present from the following institutions: Middle Tennessee State University, Jackson State Community College, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee Technological University, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Austin Peay State University, Nashville State Community College, and LeMoyne-Owen College.

I. Conference webmaster Jim Thompson posted conference meeting minutes to the web site in March for the following meetings: spring 2010, fall 2010, and spring 2011. There being no corrections from the floor, the minutes were approved.

II. Coley McGinnis (president) presented the treasurer’s report from Pippa Holloway, who could not attend, as follows:

**2011 Expenses to Date**

Lobbyist payment (McGinnis) $2,000

Lobbying tax, training, registration etc. $747.97

Travel to National conference (McQuail) $1000

Stamps $8.80

Webmaster Fee (Thompson) $500

Website registration $108.95

Food for Spring Conference @JSCC $100.84

Speaker for Spring Conference (Warren-Cox) $428.39

**Total Expenses $4,894.95**

**2011 Income to Date**

 Dues and per-capita grant $7,805.03

 Savings account interest $210

 **Total Income $8,015.03**

**Current Bank Account Balance (checking and savings): $40,852**

Tony Blasi (TSU) suggested more vigorous investment of $20,000 of the savings account. His suggestion will be referred to the executive committee for consideration.

III. Coley reported that Phil Kimmerly (APSU) has become an ombudsman and certified mediator. As such, to avoid any conflicts with situations in which he may be called to mediate, Professor Kimmerly has asked to step down as chair of the committee on government relations. Blasi suggested Thomas Schacht at ETSU as a replacement.

IV. Coley reported on the syllabus issue. A constituent of the chair of the Senate Education Committee had inquired about how Islam was being taught at universities. The senator then asked TBR for sample syllabi; TBR decided to use MTSU as a sample campus. Coley had spoken to a staff member of the committee and concluded there was nothing nefarious in this situation, although the AAUP is alert to legislative intrusions into the classroom.

V. Coley reported on the changes to the TBR grading policy. Alfred Lutz (MTSU) reported from the TBR faculty sub-council perspective and seemed hopeful that TBR staff will make appropriate changes to the changed policy to address faculty concerns. Policy was changed without faculty input.

VI. Josie McQuail (TTU) reported on the TTU administration’s efforts to privatize custodial staff and the efforts to stop those efforts. She asked for the state conference to take action in support of the AAUP chapter’s and other’s efforts to be involved in the process. Jim Williams (MTSU) suggested three possible options: a letter from Coley; an investigation by a state conference committee on shared governance; or a conference resolution. McQuail thought a letter from Coley would suffice. Some misgivings were shared from other members about whether this was the sort of decision in which faculty rightly could expected to be involved; others pointed out that the TTU administration had included faculty in the process but then changed the process when it became clear there was opposition, thereby raising the issue of shared governance regardless of the matter at hand.

VII. Coley reported on the Complete College Tennessee Act requirement that the state comptroller complete an audit of higher education (see October 2011 newsletter item). A draft of the first-year report exists, but he has been unable to get a copy of it. Rep. Beth Harwell has assured Coley that the audit addresses concerns he has raised to her about increasing administration costs and budgetary transparency.

VIII. Coley asked Delphia Harris (LeMoyne-Owen College) about the conduct of conference elections in spring 2012. Tony Blasi and Josie McQuail volunteered to serve as a nominating committee.

IX. Chapter reports: Phil Ganter (TSU) provided an update on the ongoing request of the AAUP national office to investigate actions by the interim president of TSU and the TBR for failure to follow shared governance policies in recent program eliminations and university restructuring. The TSU chapter is providing more information to the national office, as requested. Blasi reported on other issues about difficulties distributing the chapter newsletter and other administrative obstructions, in his view, to AAUP efforts.

The business meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Williams

Conference Secretary