

Union News

Connecticut State University
American Association of University Professors

CSU-AAUP Conference on Shared Governance

What is shared governance? How do we achieve it as CSU? Faculty and Administrators began exploring answers to these questions at the CSU-AAUP Conference on Shared Governance on Friday, April 20. The conference brought together some of the key players in shared governance, including three of the four university presidents, a provost, a dean, two faculty senate presidents and other senate leadership, department chairs, AAUP leaders and council representatives, and other members.

The keynote address, *Shared Governance and Collective Bargaining: An AAUP Perspective*, was given by Ernst Benjamin, Executive Director of National AAUP. Ernst highlighted passages from the Association's 1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities. "This statement, with its call for shared responsibility among the different components of institutional government and its specification of areas of primary responsibility for

governing boards, administrations, and faculties, remains the Association's central policy document relating to academic governance" (www.aaup.org).

Following a discussion of the AAUP idyllic philosophy for shared governance, a panel composed of WCSU President James Schmotter, CCSU Provost Carl Lovitt, ECSU Dean of Arts & Sciences Carmen Cid, ECSU Senate President Martin Levin, CCSU former Promotion & Tenure Committee Chair Kristine Larsen, and SCSU Physics Department Chair James Dolan spoke about their individual philosophies of shared governance.

The discussion quickly moved from abstract to specific during the question and answer session that followed. A faculty member raised the Articulation Agreement with the Community Colleges that had been signed recently; this agreement allows for community college students,

"It became clear that because this was a System decision...and there is no mechanism in place to refer a System matter to faculty for their consideration, it caused a breakdown in shared governance."

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Information, Misinformation, and Disinformation

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As the collective bargaining agent for the full and part-time faculty, coaches, librarians, and counselors at CSUS, CSU-AAUP negotiates wages and working conditions as well as works to advance academic freedom, shared governance, and other issues in higher education.

In addition to these responsibilities as the collective

bargaining agent, CSU-AAUP strives to be open and consistent in its communications to the membership and aims to have an informed membership.

The organization made an impressive commitment to improving its communication three years ago when it hired a staff person to work solely on

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CSU-AAUP Conference on Shared Governance

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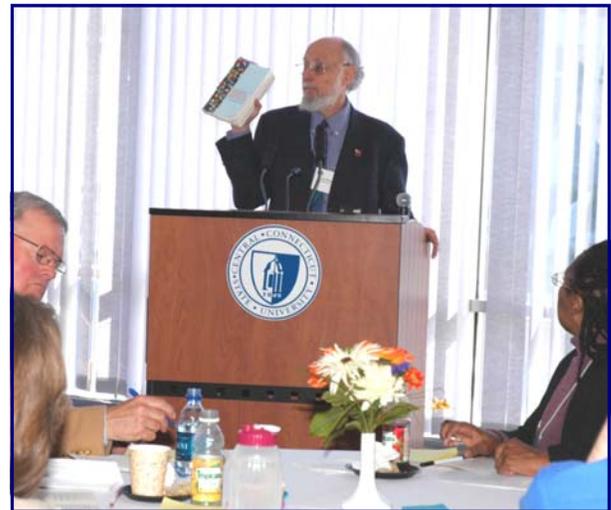
prior to completing 15 credits, to apply for guaranteed admission to any CSU institution. If the student obtains his/her associate's degree within a maximum of five years and with a 2.0 average, the student will be able to transfer a minimum of 60 credits to enter the University as a junior or third-year student, as long as the transfer takes place within two years of the completion of the associate degree. This agreement was apparently signed and agreed upon with no faculty input. Both administrators, including two campus presidents, and faculty members provided insight into this matter. Individual campuses, including ECSU and WCSU, had negotiated similar agreements with one or more community college campuses in the past. Prior to those agreements being signed, faculty were given the opportunity to discuss it in Senate. This new agreement was meant to encompass these existing agreements and broaden it to include all CSU and Community College institutions. It became clear that because this was a System decision, rather than an individual campus decision, and there is no mechanism in place to refer a System matter to faculty for their consideration, it caused a breakdown in shared governance.

How should System Office decisions be referred to the faculty? The lunchtime speakers, Karen Marhoe and Joseph Flynn, of the SUNY System, shared their perspective. There are over 29,000 faculty members who teach at 64 SUNY campuses. Each college has its own Senate, but in 1953, SUNY created a System-wide Senate. Membership consists of the Chancellor, two University representatives who have system responsibilities, and faculty representatives from every university in the system. The System-wide Senate meets as a whole three times a year, and its Executive Committee meets once a month. According to their website, "the University Faculty Senate serves as a resource on governance for the university. It serves as a deliberative body on educational policies for the SUNY System." Dr. Markoe and Dr. Flynn have both served as President of that body and co-founded the American Association of Higher Education Governance Forum, a national network of faculty senates.

The conference ended with closing remarks from CSU-AAUP President David Walsh, who stated that he

hopes the conversation surrounding best practices for shared governance at CSU continues and AAUP hopes to sponsor additional conferences on this subject.

Since the conference, CCSU Senate President Tim Craine has contacted the Senate Presidents on the other three campuses to begin to explore the possibility of a system-wide representative body that would parallel the faculty senates on the individual campuses.



Ernst Benjamin, Executive Director of National AAUP, delivers the keynote address at the CSU-AAUP Conference on Shared Governance.



Panelists discuss their shared governance philosophies. Pictured from left to right: Ernst Benjamin (Moderator), James Schmotter (WCSU President), Carl Lovitt (CCSU Provost), Carmen Cid (ECSU Dean of Arts & Sciences), and Martin Levin (ECSU Senate President).

Information, Misinformation, and Disinformation

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communication matters. CSU-AAUP was seeking to publish a written newsletter at regular intervals, modernize its website, and increase the frequency and quality of its overall communications.

However, no matter how much the organization has improved its communication procedures, it cannot completely stop the proliferation of rumors or the misstatement of facts. Information seems to travel much faster through informal lines of communication than it ever could through formal channels, especially when certain union issues require Council approval before they can be communicated.

Rumors are often innocent exchanges of information, but one must always be aware that rumors can also be

part of a disinformation campaign - false information distributed with the intent to mislead. It goes without saying that CSU-AAUP's members are highly-educated individuals, who are trained to receive information with a critical ear. However, for anyone who wishes to obtain accurate information about any specific issue, union leadership encourages the membership to contact their elected officers or Council representatives.

Your CSU-AAUP Officers and Council Representatives are listed on Page 4 of this newsletter. Their contact information can be obtained on the CSU-AAUP website at <http://www.ccsu.edu/aaup/csu/officers.htm>. Your local AAUP office will also provide the contact information for your elected officials if you wish to speak with them.

Update on Health Benefits for Certain Part-time Faculty

On Thursday, April 19, CSU-AAUP leadership and SEBAC attorney Dan Livingston met with Comptroller Nancy Wyman to continue negotiations regarding health insurance for part-time faculty who teach 9 or more load credits at multiple state institutions (background information on this matter can be found on our website <http://www.ccsu.edu/aaup/csu/part.htm>).

The details of the implementation procedures are still being negotiated by all involved parties, including the State Comptroller's office, CSU-AAUP, UConn-AAUP, the Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges, and the Administrations at CSUS, UConn, and the Community Colleges. There are some procedural challenges that have to be resolved before agreement can be reached, but the parties continue to make progress.

The three public higher education unions have made it very clear that they want this matter to be resolved and the coverage implemented for the start of the fall 2007 semester. A representative of the Comptroller's Office stated that this is not expected to be a problem.

CSU-AAUP will continue to update all of our members about this important issue as we receive more information.

Elections for the Standing Advisory Committee of the Board of Governors

Elections will end on Friday, May 11 at 12:00 noon. The Standing Advisory Committee to the Board of Governors is a 22-member group of trustees, administrators, faculty members and students charged by state statute to meet at least twice annually with the Board to discuss a mutually agreed upon agenda.

CSU-AAUP and SUOAF-AFSCME share this position. All AAUP and SUOAF-AFSCME bargaining unit members are eligible to vote.

Candidates for Election include:

- Candace Barrington, English (CCSU)
- Sharon Braverman, School of Business (CCSU)
- Patricia Zibluk, Sponsored Programs and Research (SCSU)

Biographical statements for the candidates can be found with the ballot or on the CCSU-AAUP website at <http://www.ccsu.edu/aaup/csu> (follow the link for Elections). Directions for voting and a link to the ballot can also be found on our website.

National AAUP Annual Meeting

Telling the Truth in Difficult Times

The theme for AAUP's 93rd Annual Meeting is "Telling the Truth in Difficult Times." Speakers at the meeting include: Joan Bertin, executive director of the National Coalition Against Censorship and consultant to the Association's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure; Andrew Ross, professor in the Program in American Studies in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University and author of *Fast Boat to China: Corporate Flight and the Consequences of Free Trade—Lessons from Shanghai*; and Neil Gross, assistant professor of sociology at Harvard University and researcher

on political views of college and university professors, with Solon Simmons, assistant professor at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

In addition to the meetings of the Collective Bargaining Congress and Annual Meeting Plenary Sessions, there will be several panel presentations, including "Whatever Happened to the Faculty?", "What's Race Got to Do with It? Social Disparities and Student Success", "Organizing Around Gender Equity", and "The Social and Political Attitudes of Professors".

The Annual Meeting will take place June 7-10 in Washington, D.C.

Council Notes

At its April 19 meeting, the CSU-AAUP Council:

- Heard a report regarding the proposed restructuring of National AAUP from Executive Director Ernst Benjamin
- Approved the attendance of up to 13 persons at the National

AAUP Annual Meeting on June 7-10 in Washington, D.C.

- Approved the attendance of up to 25 persons at the CBC Summer Institute at the University of Nevada, Reno, July 19-22
- Authorized donations to the Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Memorial Golf Tournament and the Connecticut National Organization for Women Annual Feminist Awards
- Appointed a negotiating team to negotiate the professional staff contract
- Discussed performing a workload study in preparation for future contract negotiations
- Approved a report of the Investment Advisory Committee on CSU-AAUP's Investment Policy

The Council is scheduled to meet again on May 17.

CSU-AAUP Officers, Staff & Council

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Arlene Bielefield

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Linda Cunningham

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Candace Barrington

Guy Crundwell

Jean Lefebvre

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Heather Prescott

Rachel Siporin

Cindy White

ECSU Council Members

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SCSU Council Members

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Debra Emmelman

John Kavanagh

Steven Larocco

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Tony Rosso

Cindy Stretch

Robert Vaden-Goad

WCSU Council Members

Russell Gladstone

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Cigdem Usekes

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CSU-AAUP

We're on the web!

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