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Union News

Vol. 4, Issue 16 | August 28, 2014

CSU-AAUP Activity Over the Summer



Presenter Donald Rogers (CCSU) leads a breakout session on "The Right to Teach Their Crafts: Academic Freedom and Pedagogy for Adjunct Instructors"



Summer Institute participants, including Patricia O'Neill (WCSU), listening to a workshop about ways to improve their negotiating skills.

Excerpts taken from www.aaup.org

2014 Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education

The AAUP Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education featured two days of presentations by faculty members and administrators from around the country. Henry Reichman, chair of the AAUP's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, delivered the opening plenary address, "Can I Tweet That? Academic Freedom and Electronic Communications." Presentations by faculty members and administrators from around the country addressed the role of faculty in institutional decision making, collective bargaining in higher education, faculty working off the tenure track, assessment and accountability, the corporatization of teaching and research, academic freedom, and MOOCs and online education. **Three faculty members from Central Connecticut State University—Donald Rogers, Jane Hikel, and Maura Jo Lynch—presented "The Right to Teach Their Crafts: Academic Freedom and Pedagogy for Adjunct Instructors."**

Day two of the AAUP's Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education and One Hundredth Annual Meeting was highlighted by a plenary luncheon presentation by Daniel Maxey, Co-Principal Investigator at The Delphi Project and a Dean's Fellow in Urban Education Policy in the University of Southern California's Rossier School of Education and the Pullias Center for Higher Education. The Delphi Project was created to support a better understanding of the changing nature of higher education faculty, chiefly the sharp rise in non-tenure-track faculty. The project examines the factors leading to a majority of faculty being hired off the tenure track; the impact these types of hires have on both teaching and learning; and strategies for addressing the rise of contingent faculty through collaborative change and positive practices. The presentation discussed the changing composition of faculty and the growth of part-time and non-tenure track faculty in higher education. Maxey discussed the common conditions and restraints experienced by part-time and non-tenure-track faculty, but also highlighted some of the positive steps being taken to support and improve their experiences.

"Seeking out champions in different parts of the institution and working together is key to building the rationale for change and creating effective support for all faculty," Maxey said. "Change is often promoted through

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collaboration among multiple campus constituencies and stakeholders.”

For more information on The Delphi Project, please visit <http://thechangingfaculty.org/>.

Delegates from CSU-AAUP also attended the AAUP-CBC dinner and business meeting, which featured Risa L. Lieberwitz. Her topic was “Expanding Unionization in Private Universities: New Possibilities Pending at the NLRB.” Lieberwitz is professor of labor and employment law in the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations and an associate of the Worker Institute at Cornell. Much of her research has focused on the “corporatization” of colleges and universities and the impact of these developments on academic freedom and the role of higher education in a democratic society. Her current research addresses the role of collective bargaining in higher education in creating contractual protections for academic freedom and faculty governance. Lieberwitz is a longtime activist in faculty governance at Cornell. She is a member of the AAUP’s Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure.

Delegates to the One Hundredth Annual Meeting of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) voted on June 14 to place Northeastern Illinois University on the AAUP’s list of censured administrations. Censure by the AAUP informs the academic community that the administration of an institution has not adhered to generally recognized principles of academic freedom and tenure. With this action, fifty-three institutions are currently on the censure list.

The full list of censured administrations is available at <http://www.aaup.org/our-programs/academic-freedom/censure-list/>.

The annual meeting approved delegating to the Association’s Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure the authority to remove Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, from the censure list once the committee can attest that actions are in process at the institution that will ensure the protections of academic due process for full-time faculty members holding contingent appointments.

At the 2013 annual meeting, the Association had taken no action on an investigating committee’s report on program closures at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in order to give the incoming administration time to address the issues raised in the report. In its report on the matter to this year’s meeting, Committee A stated that it was closing its file on the investigation, citing favorable testimony from key faculty groups and the UNI administration. The president of the AAUP collective-bargaining chapter wrote that, by working cooperatively, the administration and the faculty had “made significant progress in restoring respect for academic freedom, tenure, and faculty governance at the University of Northern Iowa.”

2014 Summer Institute

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As always, the Summer Institute offered training to develop necessary skills to protect higher education's mission. The Summer Institute, which was held in 2014 at Hofstra University, provided intensive workshops and seminars to teach such skills as: organizing your colleagues; strengthening shared governance and academic freedom protections on campus; basic video production; using information requests; analyzing institutions' audited financial statements; bargaining and administering contracts; building active, influential chapters and state conferences; creating successful contract campaigns; addressing sexual assault on campus through policy and procedures; using communications to mobilize your members; evaluating on-line education; building diversity in AAUP leadership; developing key contract language for faculty with contingent appointments; building coalitions on campus; and planning creative direct actions in support of your issues.

The Summer Institute also featured a special panel session on "100 Years of Defending Academic Freedom: Reflecting on the Past, Imagining the Future" featuring panelists Ellen Schrecker (Yeshiva University), Joerg Tiede (Illinois Wesleyan University), and Ernst Benjamin (Wayne State University, Senior AAUP Consultant). The Summer Institute concluded with a roundtable discussion, "Higher Education, the Public Good, and AAUP." The 1940 Statement notes in its introductory paragraphs: "Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good... The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free expression." Yet as colleges and universities continue to develop into corporate enterprises, the public mission of higher education is under threat now more than ever. The discussion dealt with the following questions: What "public good" should higher education strive to define? How can academic workers mobilize around a new vision of public good? How can AAUP policies help define a better university for our students and our society?

2014 Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor (COCAL)

The eleventh biennial conference of the Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor, of which the AAUP is a part, took place in New York City from August 4 through 6, 2014.

The theme of the conference was "Shaping an Equitable and Democratic Future for Higher Education: The Way Forward." Planned plenary sessions included:

1. Towards an International Coalition—visions of the way forward.
2. The Nuts & Bolts of Contingent Organizing—from both outside the Academy and within
3. Going Forward—crafting a collective take-away

Visit <http://cocalinternational.org/> for more details.