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Union News

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CSU-AAUP Activity Over the Summer

Excerpts taken from www.aaup.org

2013 Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education

From June 12 to 16, 2013, the AAUP hosted the Ninety-ninth Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Concurrent with the annual meeting was the AAUP Conference on the State of Higher Education, which included plenary addresses and presentations on current issues confronting the academic community. **Presenting at the conference on “Retirement Reform for Professors: Lessons from the Connecticut Victory” were James W. Russell (ECSU), Anne Dawson (ECSU) and Stephen Adair (CCSU). Other Connecticut presenters included Robert Cipriano (SCSU) and Richard L. Riccardi (SCSU) on “Collegiality as a Fourth Criterion for Personnel Decisions.”**

On June 13, AAUP members visited Capitol Hill to discuss legislation affecting higher education with their senators and representatives. This year’s discussions focused on three important areas: making student loans affordable and preventing a rise in interest rates, opposing political interference in research, and supporting appointments to the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board. **Members of the Connecticut State Conference AAUP made contact with Senator Blumenthal’s office on Capitol Hill Day, which led to some Connecticut faculty members joining the Senator for a press conference on student loan interest rates on June 24.**

The annual meeting voted to place National Louis University (Illinois) and Southern University, Baton Rouge, on the list of censured administrations. It also voted to remove St. Bonaventure University (New York) and Our Lady of Holy Cross College (Louisiana) from the censure list. The annual meeting also approved numerous amendments to the AAUP’s constitution. The primary substantive change shifts the elections of Council members from the current annual cycle to a biennial one.

Continued on next page



CSU-AAUP won the AI Sumberg Award for excellent work in lobbying for higher education issues



Michele Ganon (WCSU), AAUP Secretary-Treasurer, at the 2013 AAUP Annual Meeting



Irene Mulvey (CT State Conference) and Keith Phaneuf (CT Mirror) at the Molotsky Award Presentation

The Ninety-ninth Annual Meeting approved three resolutions: one urging passage of the Bank on Students Loan Fairness Act introduced by Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative John Tierney, both Democrats from Massachusetts; one expressing support for faculty control of the curriculum at the City University of New York; and one endorsing faculty participation and sound decision making in the selection and retention of college and university leaders. The third resolution, on selecting chief administrative officers, “deplores the apparent tendency of many governing boards to give little or no weight to faculty participation in these crucial matters” and commends the “Profile for a Twenty-First-Century President,” a document issued by the Association’s New York conference, as a template for the academic community to use when making decisions concerning the selection and retention of college and university leadership.

The Iris Molotsky Award for Excellence in Coverage of Higher Education was shared by two winners this year, including *The Connecticut Mirror* and reporters **Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, Mark Pazniokas, and Keith Phaneuf, for their nine-part investigative series on a scandal involving Connecticut’s newly reorganized higher education department.** Janese Silvey, formerly a reporter for the Columbia Daily Tribune in Missouri, received the second Molotsky Award for her reporting on the closure (and eventual reopening) of the University of Missouri Press.



Doris Marino, SCSU (left); Kristin Jacobi, ECSU (second from right), and Russell Gladstone, WCSU (right) at the Workshop on Messaging at the Summer Institute.

Finally, CSU-AAUP won the Al Sumberg Award, which is given to an individual or group to recognize excellent work in lobbying for higher education issues.

2013 Summer Institute

The 2013 Summer Institute was held July 25–28 in Seattle, Washington. This was an extensive four-day series of workshops and seminars that helped to prepare the 230 attendees to organize their colleagues, stand up for academic freedom, and advocate for research and teaching as the core priority of higher education.

Other workshops included analyzing institutions’ audited financial statements; bargaining and administering contracts; building diversity in AAUP leadership; and planning creative mass actions in support of your issues, and more.

The Summer Institute also featured open discussion panels on contingent faculty issues and the student debt crisis. These sessions created discussion on these timely subjects and sparked networking opportunities for academic activists from all across the country. "You make a lot of connections at Summer Institute, which helps you understand the national picture and brainstorm new ideas to bring to your campus," said David Kociemba, president of Emerson AFEC-AAUP.



William Fothergill (CCSU) participates in the Workshop on Diverse Faculty and Academic Freedom.