

AAUP General Chapter Meeting
Minutes – February 9, 2016
Fireside Lounge

Chapter President Bryan Spiegelberg called the meeting to order at 11:45 am.

President's Welcome

- President Spiegelberg welcomed the membership.
- The Minutes of December 1 were approved.

Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer's Report through January 19 was reviewed.
- Treasurer Dave Dewberry explained that membership dues income will be decreasing in the coming years as a result of salary freezes, the growing number of retirements, and the fact that lines may not be replaced or may be replaced with assistant professors whose contribution is lower. Potential solutions could involve cutting costs (for example, foregoing expensive yearly audits and doing them every other year) and increasing dues.
- Dave Dewberry asked the membership for suggestions, and a Q&A followed.

President's Report

- President Spiegelberg announced that the new slate of AAUP Executive Committee officers for 2016/2017 would be voted at the March 8 chapter meeting. Graham McKinley announced the current ballot and asked for new nominations from the floor. A couple of members nominated themselves and the membership then voted in favor of closing the nominations.
- The current contract expires at the end of 2017. Contract Administrator Jeff Halpern explained that normally this would be the time to set up a team and start preliminary work. Halpern announced that if the process were altered and the issues currently being raised by members were not settled, he may not be willing to take on the task of leading the next negotiating team.
- President Spiegelberg asked for reactions to President Dell'Omo's official inauguration Friday, April 8 and whether the AAUP should take any type of action. It was decided that the executive committee would put together a couple of proposals based on the membership's feedback and present them at the next chapter meeting.

Chief Grievance Officer's Report

- There is only one active grievance and it will soon be decided whether to move to arbitration.
- There have been no grievances after the P&T season.
- CGO Halpern explained that in the past violations were generally solved without having to initiate a grievance procedure but the administration has become more aggressive in fighting reported violations. He expects this adversarial trend to continue and to be forced to file more grievances.

Old Business

- Vice President Art Taylor explained the history of the disagreements behind the document “Proposed Policy and Procedural Changes”. He expressed the need to come together as a unit and suggested an open forum for discussion hosted by the Executive Committee.
- President Spiegelberg asked the membership to vote on the following motion to amend the tabled motion from the last AAUP chapter meeting (December 1): “The membership supports the Executive Committee’s recommendation not to implement any of the changes proposed in the document, titled ‘Proposed Policy and Procedural Changes,’ that was distributed anonymously at the November chapter meeting; this includes changes to the Constitution, the Bylaws or of the chapter or to the process by which the negotiating team carries out its duties. The membership does direct the Executive Committee to arrange for an open forum where the issues raised by these proposals may be discussed.” This motion was approved by a majority vote and then the amended motion was voted on and approved by the unit.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nuria Sanjuán
Recording Secretary
February 19, 2016