

**Minutes, Tennessee Conference of the American Association of University Professors  
Spring Meeting, 2011**

**Jackson State Community College, Jackson, Tennessee**

**I. Morning plenary sessions**

A. Conference Secretary Prof. Jim Williams (Middle Tennessee State University) led a discussion with Dr. Richard Rhoda, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and AAUP member. The discussion with about twenty in attendance focused on the Lumina Foundation report “Navigating the ‘New Normal’” but also included broader issues relating to the Complete College Tennessee Act and other higher education issues facing the state.

B. National AAUP President Prof. Cary Nelson was unable to attend the meeting due to weather issues, so the meeting proceeded to a presentation by Assembly of State Conferences Chair Prof. Donna Potts (Kansas State University). Dr. Potts distributed and discussed a handout titled “Conference Building: Ten Commandments.”

**II. Afternoon business meeting**

**A. Call to order.** Conference President Coley McGinnis called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m. at HRH Dumplin’s restaurant in Jackson.

**B. Approval of minutes.** Conference Treasurer Prof. Pippa Holloway reported that the minutes from the fall 2010 meeting were not on hand for approval, but that she would send them to the conference secretary for distribution and approval at a subsequent meeting.

**C. Treasurer’s report.** Holloway reported that the conference still had “lots of money,” that there had been no applicants for money to attend conference meeting, and that the main expenditures remained subsidizing member attendance at AAUP summer institutes and national meetings. Holloway clarified that the balance on hand was in the mid-\$20,000s.

**D. Committee reports.**

1. Prof. Andy Smith (Tennessee Technological University) reported that the committee on contingent faculty had nothing to report except that the Tennessee Board of Regents had indicated it would create a task force on the issue. President McGinnis mentioned that his short talk a few weeks previous to the Senate Education Committee had focused on the AAUP concerns regarding use of contingent faculty in Tennessee. He also reported that he had suggested three names to Paula Short (TBR) for membership on the task force, but had not heard anything since then. Donna Potts, ASC Chair, mentioned tenure efforts for contingent faculty in other states. General discussion followed of the Austin Peay State University idea to offer

tenure-track positions at the instructor level, which Smith confirmed is already being done at Tennessee Tech.

2. There were no other committee reports. The position of membership committee chair remains vacant.

**E. Government relations report and discussion.** Coley McGinnis, director of government relations, reported on his experience of arranging a meeting with the Senate Education Committee through the committee's research aide. McGinnis described his professional and working relationship with Rep. Beth Harwell, the new speaker. He raised the suggestion with her of creating a legislative task force to examine issues relating to higher education in Tennessee.

Prof. Phil Kemmerly (Austin Peay State University) then discussed several bills that had been introduced in this legislative session, to wit:

1. HB 1103/ S 1924, which requires the TBR chancellor to study tenure.
2. HB 159, which prohibits withdrawing dues for certain organizations through payroll deduction.
3. HB 2016, which would allow certain people with permits to carry guns on college campuses.

McGinnis reported that he would be making a presentation to the House Education Committee on March 1.

Smith suggested that AAUP in Tennessee support the Tennessee Education Association (TEA) in solidarity as it has come under attack this spring. He then moved that the Tennessee Conference of the AAUP support the TEA rally next Saturday and to instruct President McGinnis to communicate AAUP support to TEA leaders. Seconded by Prof. Marius Carriere (Christian Brothers University). The membership voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**F. Fall meeting 2011.** President McGinnis called for suggestions for the location of the fall conference meeting. Williams mentioned that the conference had a standing invitation to meet at Middle Tennessee State University, which would be celebrating its centennial this fall. Kemmerly moved, Prof. Pat Papachristou (Christian Brothers University) seconded the motion to hold the fall meeting at MTSU. Motion approved.

### **G. Chapter reports.**

1. Prof. Tony Blasi (Tennessee State University) reported that TSU has an interim president. The faculty senate there is active again, has affirmed its support of shared governance, and is trying to get buy in from the administration. Prof. Phil Gander (TSU, faculty senator)

reported more details about the senate's increasing legitimacy through the recent removal of old members and other actions.

2. Prof. Josie McQuail (Tennessee Tech) reported on the university's effort to outsource custodial services and attempts to rally faculty in support of custodians.

3. [?] (LeMoyne-Owen College) reported that the faculty there had recently finished revising the faculty handbook, which has been approved, and that shared governance now exists throughout the college's governing structure.

**H. New business.** Secretary Williams reported a motion from the executive committee to use the Emma email service on a trial basis for a year, at the rate of 1000 messages for \$24 per month. He explained that this would be a mechanism to provide regular communications and updates to the conference membership and also to track statistics about those who opened the messages, clicked on certain links, or forwarded the message to others. Motion passed.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Williams, Secretary