

AAUP UIUC Chapter
Final Report 2010 – 2011
Submitted by Chapter President John E. Prussing

Details of the chapter actions are in the Policy Committee Minutes, but the major topics dealt with during the academic year were as follows:

August

A letter was drafted by our chapter Academic Freedom & Tenure (AFT) Committee, approved by the Policy Committee, and sent to the Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR). It contained recommendations on periodic evaluation and oversight of campus compliance committees, such as those dealing with research using animals, biosafety, etc. This action was based on a faculty member's complaint to our chapter about IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee). VCR Iyer responded that policies were currently under review and our recommendations would be included.

September

The charge to the newly formed chapter Committee on Shared University Governance (SUG?) was approved. This committee was suggested by Lew Hopkins, who is now chair of the committee, along with members Bettina Francis and David O'Brien, a member of our local chapter from the Department of Art & Design. The charge was drafted to make a distinction between the purviews of SUG and AFT.

November

The Policy Committee met with former UI President Stan Ikenberry. Many topics were discussed, including the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Foundation and the change he implemented requiring that research proposals be handled in the same manner as in campus units.

The case of tenured engineering professor Louis Wozniak was discussed at some length. Policy Committee member Matt Finkin was involved as chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom & Tenure. The University Statutes were not being followed and chapter president Prussing emailed Interim Chancellor Bob Easter to point that out. The email received a thank you, but no substantive response. At the time of our annual meeting (May 10) the Wozniak case was ongoing.

January

A meeting on the Wozniak matter between the Policy Committee and President Hogan, after being rescheduled several times, turned into a last minute meeting involving Prussing, Harry Hilton, Hogan, and Easter because of only three hours notice. Prussing and Hilton warned of potential censure by the National AAUP, noting that UIUC was censured in the 1960s in the Leo Koch case. (Greg Sholtz, chief of the academic freedom staff at the National AAUP, is following the Wozniak case.) Prussing quoted from the Redbook on how a hearing committee should be constituted, especially for a second level review.

February

The chapter's annual Promotion and Tenure Workshop was held. Campus administrators on the panel were Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dick Wheeler and Vice Provost Barbara Wilson. Attendance was up from the previous year.

March

The Policy Committee met with President Hogan. Many topics were covered, including the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Foundation, Hogan said that a new memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was being written and would be made public, and that he was changing the way the governing board is constituted. Hogan claimed that the Statutes are being followed in the Wozniak case.

May

The Policy Committee met with Katherine "Kappy" Laing, Director of the University Office of Governmental Relations. Several topics were discussed. Including pensions.

The chancellor appointed Harry Hilton and John Prussing to an ad-hoc committee to "generate a proposed campus process for the hiring, evaluation, reappointment, and termination of adjunct faculty members, as well as the generation of a grievance procedure in case of contested decisions." The committee was appointed at the request of the Senate Executive Committee, and this process will fill a void in the current University Statues.