



View this newsletter online as a PDF

Union News

Vol. 3, Issue 25 | November 15, 2012

National AAUP Shared Governance Conference

**By Truman Keys
(Communication,
WCSU)**

The AAUP Shared Governance Conference and Workshops annual conference was held for the third consecutive year in Washington, D.C. on October 26-28, 2012.

Larry Gerber, chair of the AAUP Committee on College and University Shared Governance welcomed attendees during the opening plenary address. He asserted that faculty have been interested in areas of governance including curriculum, program and graduation requirements, course control and promotion, tenure and faculty review since AAUP's founding in 1915.

Moreover, a panel discussion during the conference provided recent findings from The National Study of Faculty Leadership, which indicated that shared governance was one of the top four issues for faculty senate leaders. A plethora of topics related to shared governance were salient in this study, in Gerber's address, and in conference panels and workshops. For instance, one topic was the danger of silence regarding employment-at-will on college campuses. The overriding message was our inaction speaks volumes and it weakens our case for a tenure system for faculty. We must oppose employment policies that negatively affect due process.

Another salient topic was assessment. The public wants assessment. Faculty claims of authority regarding program quality without assessment are no longer enough. Faculty must work with administration and staff to take control of the process so others do not—recognize that promotion, tenure, and faculty review are tied to accountability. Faculty should document their teaching activities and determine what impact these activities have on student learning. Then summative measures become external measures. Cooperation with administration and staff regarding these topics and others is essential.

University of Virginia (UVA) Faculty Senate Chair George Cohen's rousing speech echoed this sentiment. He discussed the recent events at

**Shared
Governance
Conference**

Continued

UVA regarding the removal of its President, and how the faculty senate at UVA played an instrumental role getting the President reinstated. He offered attendees a tangible example of leadership and advocacy on behalf of faculty, the administration, staff, students, the campus and alumni. They stood together as a community and fought for shared governance, and Cohen emphasized that he knew we stood by them. We stand together, united!

**Campus Equity
Week at WCSU**

Campus Equity Week, an international event designed to draw attention to working conditions of part-time and full-time non-tenure track faculty, will be celebrated at WCSU on Wednesday, November 28. Join WCSU-AAUP for candy, cider and information at their table in the Warner Hall Lobby between noon and 2 pm.