See meeting minutes, page 2 of this newsletter

ASC held Workshop at Wash. U. on Nov. 10

Around 50 people from all over the state attended the full-day workshop at Washington University St. Louis and heard presentations from officers of the Assembly of State Conferences (ASC) and by the newly elected AAUP President Rudy Fichtenbaum and the Chair of the Collective Bargaining Congress (CBC) Howard Bunsis.

The presentations, listed on page 3, were riveting and the day went quickly. Late in the day, Fichtenbaum and Bunsis presented some astonishing figures and graphs that challenged the current story of financial stress in higher education. Money available at universities is remarkably stable, and none of the Missouri schools have faced any real financial crisis. However, administrative costs have increased very rapidly while instructional budgets have remained flat. The presentations were based on state and national data that non-profits (including universities) are required to make public. See http://www.dhe.mo.gov/data/statsum/ and http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/

Admitting more students has generally led to increases in revenue (from tuition payments and from federal loans), but these increased revenues have mainly gone into administration rather than instruction. Endowments of universities are doing very well, in spite of recent financial crises.

Photos, page 3
Article cont., page 4
Minutes of Annual Meeting of Missouri Conference (MOAAUP)  
March 31, 2012  
University of Missouri Memorial Union, room S-203  
(not N-102, as earlier advertised)  
Columbia, Missouri

Present: Mara Araguetu, Nancy Browning, and Jim Borgwald (Lincoln University); John Knapp, Patricia Murphy, and Cliff Toliver (Missouri Southern State University); David Robinson, Kathryn Brammall, and Marc Becker (Truman State University); Sudarshan Loyalka and Stephen Montgomery-Smith (UM Columbia); Roger Pick (UM Kansas City); Keith Hardeman (Westminster College); Donna Potts (ASC chair); and invited guests: Dale Nelson, Mary Still, and Kurt Schaefer.

President David Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He announced that free copies of the Redbook (AAUP Policy Documents & Reports) would be offered to each attending chapter. He then asked for campus status reports from each institution present; the pervading themes were threats from budget problems everywhere and low enrollment in some private colleges.

Assembly of State Conferences (ASC) Chair Donna Potts took the floor and discussed the issue of the corporatization of college campuses. She emphasized that chapter membership and activism is critical in dealing with this issue. She and President Robinson announced that there would be a fall workshop in St. Louis on November 10, as it turned out] to enhance chapter membership and discuss other campus issues, including budget problems. Dr. Potts also said she would be conducting a session on chapter outreach at the next national conference. She concluded by updating the attendees on the budget “crisis” taking place at the University of Northern Iowa, causing massive layoffs, including tenured faculty. She affirmed that UNI has the necessary finances so that the layoffs are unnecessary, and that the University of Iowa faculty has written a public letter in support of the UNI faculty.

At 11:00 a.m., candidates for the 19th District of Missouri State Senate, Representative Mary Still (D–25) and incumbent Kurt Schaefer, addressed current issues in higher education. Rep. Still had only recently declared her candidacy, so this turned out to be their first meeting as opponents; it was a wide-ranging discussion that could be called a candidates’ debate, moderated by David Robinson.

Rep. Still was clear in stating the need for faculty to lobby at the State Capitol: “We need to see you in Jeff City,” she said. She noted that higher education funding has been flat for over a decade while the student population at Mizzou has increased by about 12,000 students. “We have the resources to do better,” she said. Missouri has the lowest corporate tax rates in the country and probably the lowest per-capita funding for higher education. Rep. Still added that legislators need to have a better understanding of the value of academic research; professors do a lot for the quality of life in Missouri and beyond.

Senator Schaefer discussed how the bonding bill for academic buildings, which he supported, was filibustered. He was hopeful to get it passed soon to take advantage of present low interest rates. He staunchly pledged not to vote for any cuts in higher education. He said he and Representative Chris Kelly (D–24) have crossed the aisle to work together to put more money back into higher education. He discussed various aspects of the state budget process, how many budgets had been cut to the bone, and that term limits have created a short-term view of politicians who seem more interested in pleasing their local constituents than in putting sufficient money into higher education. [On November 6, Senator Schafer was re-elected.]

The group took a lunch break from 12:10–1:15.

Dale Nelson was invited to speak to the group about renewed efforts to exert pressure on the MU Board of Curators to include domestic partner benefits for UM faculty, now that a coalition led by Faculty Council has requested this. In addition to issues of fairness, he pointed out broad positive aspects, as the universities come in line with what have become common business practices. Local economic benefits that Iowa is now reaping by having legalized gay marriage – bridal shops, flowers, caterers, hotels, etc.—could bring a similar boom in business here if gay marriage were allowed in Missouri. The attendees voted overwhelmingly (with one abstention) to endorse the organizations working for domestic partner benefits in our universities.

At 1:36, the regular business meeting began. The minutes for the March 23, 2011, MOAAUP annual meeting were approved.

President Robinson proposed that MOAAUP nominate Janese Silvey, reporter for the Columbia Daily Tribune, for AAUP’s Iris Molotsky Award for Excellence in Coverage of Higher Education. The group heartily endorsed the idea. Anyone googling Silvey will discover her very informative work on issues in higher education in Missouri, particularly at University of Missouri during the recent attempt to close the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute (NSEI) [and later in May, to close the University of Missouri Press; both attempts were averted by faculty and community action]. [Silvey later thanked us for the consideration, but declined the nomination.]

Missouri Conference delegates to the national AAUP meeting June 13–17, 2012, were chosen via secret ballot: David Robinson and Kathryn Brammall (Truman); Mara Araguetu and Jim Borgwald (Lincoln); John Knapp (Southern) as alternate.

Cliff Toliver (Southern) was awarded the David F. Gruber Leadership Award of MOAAUP. We noted that this was the second year running that this award went to a faculty member at Missouri Southern State University.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07. Minutes were taken by Keith Hardeman, standing in for secretary-treasurer Barrie Talbott.

For more about Missouri Conference:  
www.moaaup.org
The Faculty Voice in Missouri: ASC Regional Workshop
Duncker Hall, Washington University, St. Louis
Saturday, November 10, 2012

Presentations:
Governing Boards— Lynn Tatum, ASC Member at Large
Program Review/Closings and AAUP Policies—
   Puri Martinez, ASC Vice Chair
How State Conferences Can Help Build Shared Governance—
   John Hinshaw, ASC Secretary
Post-Tenure Review—
   Joerg Tiede, ASC Member at Large
Academic Freedom and Shared Governance - Inextricably Linked—
   Charles Smith, ASC Treasurer
Is Your “Fiscal Crisis” Real?—
   Rudy Fichtenbaum, AAUP President
   & Howard Bunsis, CBC Chair

Attentive audience: Donna Potts (ASC Chair), Barrie Talbott (sec-treas. MOAAUP), Joerg Tiede (ASC Member at Large), Greg Comer (Saint Louis U.)
ASC Workshop at Wash U, cont.

Reserves at the Missouri public universities remain way above the minimum required for cash-flow and the preservation of good bond status.

All this means we shouldn’t simply believe the figures (especially the interpretations) that our administrations presents us; we should certainly not accept the idea that faculty should sacrifice further to save money by, for example, not using research or travel budgets – what we use in travel is peanuts compared to what the administration has been spending, and they seem to recognize no limits for their own projects.

Besides the data-mining of Fichtenbaum and Bunsis, other presentations covered issues such as financial exigency (fiction!), program closings (which faculty should initiate and control), and about how faculty can interact more effectively with their governing boards. One idea is to invite board members to AAUP-sponsored events, especially informal receptions, or to help arrange other events where faculty can talk with them. Those contacts could be followed up with invitations to departments or the classroom, so that board members could develop better understanding of the actual work and achievements of the university. It is tragic that, in many systems, boards and faculty have been made into enemy camps (who is responsible for that?), when in fact they all really want what is best for the university and its students.

Thanks to Rafia Zahar and her colleagues at Washington University for helping to make this a very pleasant and inspiring workshop.

Jason Lively of Lindenwood
at Shared Governance Conference

The AAUP Shared Governance Conference and Workshops met October 26-28, 2012, at the Liaison Hotel Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. On Friday afternoon, October 26, Jason Lively addressed a session and discussed the case of his institution, Lindenwood University in St. Charles, which has been sanctioned since 1994 for infringement of governance standards.

Here is the entry from the program:

Out of the Ashes - Establishing Shared Governance at a Sanctioned Institution
Jason Dude Lively (Chair, Faculty Council, Lindenwood U.)

This presentation provides a unique perspective on the values of shared governance by detailing the actions taken at Lindenwood University in its ongoing efforts to establish a meaningful and permanent system of shared governance, improving the institution, and ultimately reaching a point that no longer merits an AAUP sanction.

Read more about the AAUP sanction of Lindenwood University in the February 2012 issue of Missouri Academe (posted on www.moaau.org). The Missouri Conference stands ready to help all sanctioned and censured institutions in our state, with the hope that these designations will be removed.

Ask colleagues to join AAUP. The new, graduated dues structure helps us involve junior and contingent faculty. Join at www.aaup.org by clicking on “Get involved.”

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<th>Income Range</th>
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Lifetime Member - Age 60 to 64: $1800
Lifetime Member - Age 65 to 69: $1200
Lifetime Member - Age 70 plus: $800

Below: Lynn Tatum (ASC Member at Large), Purification Martinez (ASC Vice-Chair), and Howard Bunsis (CBC Chair)
MOAAUP officers met October 20 at Diastole (UMKC), along with officers of Kansas Conference. An afternoon workshop featured ASC chair Donna Potts and ASC officer Joerg Tiede.

Plans for 2013 MOAAUP annual meeting
Mark your calendars for February 16; the place is Kansas City. Another newsletter, with instruction for registering and specific plans, will be sent in January. We are hoping to use this same fabulous facility, The Mary Clark and E. Grey Dimond Scholars’ Center, UMKC (also known as Diastole on Hospital Hill) http://www.diastole.org/directions.html
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<th><strong>President</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Vice-President and Conference Service Director</strong></td>
<td>John Knapp</td>
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<td>John B. Harms</td>
<td>Missouri Southern State University</td>
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<td><strong>Secretary/Treasurer</strong></td>
<td>Patricia Murphy</td>
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<td>Barrie Talbott</td>
<td>Missouri Southern State University</td>
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<td><strong>Past-President</strong></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:keith.hardeman@westminster-mo.edu">keith.hardeman@westminster-mo.edu</a></td>
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**Chapter Service Program:** The Missouri Conference stands ready to aid AAUP chapters and members in any way that it can. If you work in Missouri and do not have a local chapter, feel free to contact any conference officer directly, especially Vice-President John Harms. JohnHarms@missouristate.edu (tel. 417-836-5676).