Executive Director, Missouri Budget Project addresses MOAAUP annual meeting in Kansas City, February 16

Amy Blouin, founder and Executive Director of the Missouri Budget Project, will discuss the tax policy debates in our state capital and how they will impact services in Missouri, including higher education. Her presentation and discussion will kick off our meeting, so please plan to arrive early. Coffee and conversation begin at 9 a.m.; our featured presentation will begin promptly at 10 a.m.

One agency has called Missouri Budget Project “a leading resource in our state for information regarding the fiscal impact of issues affecting Missouri’s budget and revenue situation.” Those of us who have seen their presentations marvel at their clarity and depth of research. This nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization has established a gold standard for broad analysis of funding and predictions about future operations of educational and other public services. In organizations such as AAUP we often keep going, fueled by our ideals and inspirations; our guest will help us understand what really to expect and why. We are very fortunate that Executive Director Blouin can take this time to visit with us; let’s have a good turnout and bring her our concerns and questions. To prepare, see www.mobudget.org

Facts from Missouri Budget Project:

State Taxes:
- Missouri ranked 48th in the nation for per capita state taxes collected, at $2,638 in 2008. The national average was $3,515 per capita.
- In 2009, Missouri ranked 24th for individual income tax at $797 per capita, compared to the national average of $830.
- In 2009, Missouri ranked 45th for corporate income tax at $47 per capita, compared to the national average of $132.
- In 2009, Missouri ranked 42nd for general revenue sales tax at $506 per capita, compared to the national average of $743.

State Spending on Services in 2008:
- Missouri ranked 36th in the nation on per capita state and local investment in Elementary & Secondary Education.
- Missouri ranked 39th in the nation on per capita state and local investments in Higher Education.
- Missouri ranked 47th for state and local spending per capita on Corrections.

All quiet at SLU, following No Confidence votes in fall semester

by David K. Robinson

On 24 May 2012, University of Missouri administrators, citing unsustainable costs, announced the closing of University of Missouri Press. This set off a wave of protest and discussion that went international, as the world of academic publishing reacted to the sudden, unexpected development. AAUP also joined in the discussion.

UM Press secure for time being, Nuclear programs still at risk

Annual meeting, February 16

All faculty of higher education are welcome. Feel free to bring colleagues who are not yet members of AAUP. See “Annual meeting schedule” on p. 3 of this newsletter. Pay at the door: checks to “Missouri Conference AAUP”; or please have exact cash. If you have questions about anything, contact:

David K. Robinson
Phone: (573) 881-1229
Email: drobinso@truman.edu

Full directions to Diastole: www.diastole.org/directions.html

For example (above website shows various approaches):

Going West on I-70: Exit I-70 from right lane to downtown 13th Street exit. Turn left (S) on Charlotte. At 26th Street, turn right (W) and another right (N) onto Holmes Street. Diastole is located on the right (E) side of the street, just before the 25th Street intersection.

Going East on I-70: Take I-70 east to 11th Street exit. Remain in left lane of exit ramp. Take first left (S) turn onto Charlotte Street. At 26th Street, turn right (W) and another right onto Holmes Street (N). Diastole is located on the right (E) side of the street, just before the 25th Street intersection.

Limited off-street parking is available. The entrance to the parking area is located just south of 25th Street, on the right (E) side of the street. Follow signs. Additional parking available on Holmes, 25th, and Charlotte streets.

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All quiet at SLU, following No Confidence votes in fall semester

For years, staff members at AAUP have cited the faculty handbook of Saint Louis University as a model for others, a noteworthy achievement for a religious-affiliated institution. Fall semester 2012, however, revealed another side of this model: the SLU faculty were willing to turn out in many meetings and work with AAUP and other allies in order to stave off institutional collapse. It began with a spark, just a tentative, though very threatening, proposal.

In a draft dated 20 August 2012, SLU’s vice president for academic affairs, Manoj Patankar, outlined a “faculty evaluation policy” that contained a plan for post-tenure review. Bob Kreiser of AAUP, quoted in the Chronicle of Higher Education, declared that “the policy that has been proposed would effectively eviscerate tenure as it’s understood at most institutions of higher learning.” In effect, the policy would have required tenured faculty to go through the entire tenure-evaluation process every six years after tenure, with all the same possible results, including dismissal.

As the fall semester began, SLU faculty met to discuss this terrible plan and reached out to allies across academia. Their AAUP chapter, having languished for years, began to meet. Soon the vice-president withdrew the offending draft policy, but by that time other issues had come to public attention and the faculty realized that further action was needed. The dean of SLU Law School had resigned on August 8. In her letter to SLU’s president, the Rev. Lawrence Biondi, and vice-president Patankar, Annette Clark expressed her lack of confidence in their ability to lead the university. Serving as dean for barely a year, she concluded that they were not committed to the law school’s success. Others also noticed alarming drops in SLU’s rankings and in other measures with respect to peer institutions.

SLU Faculty Senate voted a resolution of no-confidence in Vice-President Patankar, asking President Biondi to remove him from that position. When he refused, the Faculty Senate, by a vote of 51-4 on October 30, confirmed no-confidence in President Biondi as well. The Student Government Association followed suit on November 1, and SLU’s Board of Trustees got publicly involved.

At this point, and entirely by coincidence, AAUP’s Assembly of State Conferences (ASC) held a regional workshop at Washington University in St. Louis on November 10. Many faculty leaders came up the road from SLU to tell their story and seek advice on strengthening shared governance on their campus. The ASC leaders and the national president and treasurer of AAUP, who all presented at the Wash U workshop, agreed that this workshop was “perhaps the best one ever,” in no small part because of the energy and engagement of faculty from SLU, but also because of supportive faculty who came from all over the state of Missouri.

On November 30, the Board called for dialogue and meetings of trustees together with faculty representatives and administrators, but someone on the inside leaked a private letter (dated the same day) from the Board president to all Board members: they were instructed to support President Biondi, no matter how the meetings proceeded. These instructions followed advice from the PR/crisis-management consulting firm, Fleishman-Hillard, whom the board had recently engaged.

Apparently professional advice (and failure to control the message) had some effect: on December 15, at the end of this turbulent semester, the Chairman of the SLU Board of Trustees Thomas H. Brouster, Sr., issued a letter containing important announcements. Father Biondi had accepted Dr. Patankar’s resignation; an interim vice-president of academic affairs was named; the Trustees promised that all constituencies would be part of the search for a new vice-president. The expected praise followed: “The Board recognizes that Father Biondi has served the University admirably over the last 25 years and has built Saint Louis University into one of the finest Jesuit universities in the country.”

We congratulate the SLU faculty and students for their persistence and courage during that turbulent semester. We praise them for supporting tenure through the exercise of academic freedom and shared governance. We hope that they can continue to build the broad coalitions needed to face the decisions and changes that will inevitably follow. In particular, MOAAUP pledges our support for the SLU chapter of AAUP and its officers: Steve Harris (president), Eileen Searls (vice-president), Greg Comer (secretary-treasurer), and Silvana Siddali (researcher).

MOAAUP president David Robinson and 2012 Gruber Award winner Cliff Toliver

Cliff Toliver (Missouri Southern State University) received the 2012 Gruber Award at last year’s annual MOAAUP meeting, held March 31, 2012, at University of Missouri Columbia. Cliff has been recognized by his colleagues in Joplin and by faculty leaders throughout the state as a very effective president of their faculty senate, among other positions where continued, next page

For more about Missouri Conference: www.moaaup.org
Gruber Award, continued

he has served. When it was noted that Cliff was the second consecutive Gruber Award winner from Missouri Southern, the members in attendance applauded spontaneously, showing their appreciation for the special role that the Joplin chapter has played there in recent years. Supported by the Gruber Award, Cliff attended the 2011 AAUP annual meeting in Washington DC and published a fine report about it in the fall 2011 issue of this newsletter (see www.moaaup.org).

The Missouri Conference of AAUP established the David F. Gruber Leadership Development Award at its statewide meeting in Columbia on March 5, 2005, to recognize the outstanding leadership of this Professor of Philosophy at Truman State University. Gruber served as an officer of MOAAUP from 1993 on and was a member of the National Council of AAUP from 1996 until illness forced him to step down. He died in August 2005, but for years to come, this award will support Missouri AAUP members who attend training seminars and regional or national meetings.

This is the list of recipients of the Gruber Award so far:

2009  Victoria Johnson, University of Missouri Columbia
2010  Betty McLane-Iles, Truman State University
2011  Stephen Schiavo, Missouri Southern State University
2012  Cliff Toliver, Missouri Southern State University (pictured on previous page)

Who will receive the 2013 Gruber Award? Come to the annual meeting in KC on February 16, or look for the announcement in our next newsletter.

National AAUP Meeting and Conference on the State of Higher Education

When: June 12–15, 2013
Where: Mayflower Renaissance Hotel Washington DC

Highlights:

Wednesday night: Capitol Hill Orientation Workshop
Thursday midday: Lobbying visits on Capitol Hill
Friday 9:45-11:00am: Assembly of State Conferences Program
7:00-9:30pm: ASC Business Meeting
Saturday am and pm: Annual Meeting Plenary Sessions
Wednesday through Friday: Paper presentations of many kinds

Join your colleagues June 12–15, 2013, for the AAUP’s Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education, including the Ninety-ninth Annual Meeting of the AAUP (next year: 100!). http://www.aaup.org/event/annual-conference13

MOAAUP Annual Meeting
Saturday, February 16
The Mary Clark and E. Grey Dimond Scholars' Center, UMKC
also known as Diastole on Hospital Hill

Tentative meeting schedule:
9:00-10:00  Coffee social
10:00-12:00  Amy Blouin, Executive Director, Missouri Budget Project
12:30-1:30  Lunch, delivered to meeting room
1:30-2:30  Business meeting (3:00 limit on room)

Agenda of the business meeting:
1. Approval of minutes of 2012 annual meeting:
   See previous newsletter, p. 2: www.moaaup.org/pdfs/MissouriAcademe2012Nov.pdf
2. Officer reports: president, secretary-treasurer, etc.
3. Officer elections for 2013 – 15 term
4. Election of delegates to AAUP national meeting in DC, June 12-16
5. Discussion of current chapter issues, new business
6. 2013 David F. Gruber Leadership Development Award

Chapter delegates to state meeting: We urge all active chapters formally to elect two delegates (and alternates). Formal chapter delegates will elect Missouri Conference delegates to the national meeting. Other questions in the business meeting are decided by vote of all AAUP members present and in good standing (i.e. dues paid).

Conference delegates to national meeting: We can send up to four delegates to represent our conference. We seldom send more than one or two, because of scheduling and expense. Any AAUP member considering this trip to Washington DC, June 12 -15, should contact a MOAAUP officer before this meeting on February 16.
the response—at the chapter, statewide, and national level—insisting that faculty involvement and governance bodies be given their due role in such decisions. As a result of the broad reaction, and faculty engagement, the UM Press lives on, simply “moved” administratively from the University of Missouri system to the Columbia “campus.” The press operations actually continue under the same roof with the same editor-in-chief (Clair Willcox, briefly laid off during the kerfuffle), and the University, after such embarrassment, has at least avoided the spate of lawsuits that UM Press authors had lined up to file.

An earlier, similar “closing announcement” has yet to find such a satisfactory resolution. On 12 March 2012, the Dean of the Graduate School and Provost of UM-Columbia announced that the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute (NSEI) would close on March 15. This announcement was made to faculty, staff, students, and the general public simultaneously, and within a few days the NSEI website was closed down by the administration. Graduate programs in nuclear science constitute a tight worldwide network, so this news stunned the profession.

If the highest university administrators could finally solve the problem of the UM Press, where relatively little money was at stake, surely they see the need to find a reasonable solution in this case, which involves millions in funding, nuclear safety, and our energy future—as well as the reputation of a great institution of higher education.

There is a back-story, of course. Nuclear science at the Columbia campus had built up gradually since the 1950s; the College of Engineering began awarding degrees in nuclear engineering in 1960s. However, as the nuclear industry waned, the Dean of Engineering announced the end of nuclear engineering in 2002. Nuclear science and engineering faculty resisted their “dispersal” and, with help of Chancellor Richard Wallace, created NSEI within the Graduate School, where they continued to grant graduate degrees. This unit soon was recognized as one of the most productive nuclear engineering programs anywhere, in terms of grants received and students graduated. Over the subsequent decade, the need for nuclear scientists and engineers became more pronounced, and research money began to pour into this area from industry and government, concerned with energy, medical physics, and nuclear safety.

Because of the widespread attention and to continue serving current students, NSEI was not closed, and its website reappeared, but the situation remains very troubled. During the fall semester 2012, without announcement, applications for new graduate admissions to NSEI programs were blocked. The College of Engineering is apparently planning new graduate-level nuclear engineering programs, or “emphasis areas,” without discussing those plans with the expert faculty at NSEI. On January 10, a majority of NSEI faculty signed a “letter of no confidence” in Graduate Dean George Justice. The UM-Columbia chapter of AAUP and the Columbia Daily Tribune have both begun to investigate the situation; recently the MU Faculty Council has joined the effort.

Editorial opinion: Clearly, shared governance is failing when such an impasse is reached. Graduate students cannot be admitted to an established, world-recognized program. The same Dean of Engineering, James Thompson, who wanted to close down nuclear engineering a decade ago, now wants it back in his fold, but those same nuclear faculty are reluctant to come back under his supervision. Curricular plans are being made, largely in secret; people are seeking email evidence to determine when someone planned what with whom. If the highest university administrators could finally solve the problem of the UM Press, where relatively little money was at stake, surely they see the need to find a reasonable solution in this case, which involves millions in funding, nuclear safety, and our energy future—as well as the reputation of a great institution of higher education.

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.”

- $30,000 and less: $45
- $30,001 - $40,000: $60
- $40,001 - $50,000: $80
- $50,001 - $60,000: $100
- $60,001 - $70,000: $140
- $70,001 - $80,000: $165
- $80,001 - $100,000: $185
- $100,001 - $120,000: $205
- More than $120,000: $225

Lifetime Member - Age 60 to 64: $1800
Lifetime Member - Age 65 to 69: $1200
Lifetime Member - Age 70 plus: $800
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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](mailto:JohnHarms@missouristate.edu) (tel. 417-836-5676).