Lessons from Southern and from SLU:
Our upcoming panel on Shared Governance
by David K. Robinson

The previous newsletter tells how MOAAUP members appeared at last June’s national conference, regaling the audience with tales of academic-administrative “blood and gore.” Presidents, chancellors, and provosts seemed to be going poof all around the state, and faculty and their governance bodies were barely hanging in there, seeking support from AAUP.

No chapters or faculty faced more precarious situations than those at Southern Missouri State University (Joplin) and St. Louis University. The hubris of their presidents knew no bounds, but soon after that AAUP meeting they finally ran up

Annual meeting, March 1
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.

Registration Cost: Full-time faculty $20 (includes lunch)
Adjunct/retired faculty $5 (includes lunch)

The conference site, Anheuser-Busch Hall, Fontbonne University, sits on the corner of Wydown and Big Bend Boulevards (building 6 on the map, p. 3). We will have coffee and breakfast snacks in Room 109, then meet in Room 203/05.

Conference pre-registration is not necessary. Join us any time between 9:00-9:45 a.m. for coffee, bagels, etc. Pay at the door: checks to “Missouri Conference AAUP”; or please have exact cash. We can provide receipts.

The Google-map address: 6800 Wydown Blvd.
St. Louis MO 63105

Directions from I-64 (US-40): Take Exit 33A and go north about a mile on Big Bend Blvd. (Washington University is just north of Fontbonne, across Wydown Blvd., so do not go that far!)

Parking should not be a problem on Saturdays, and campus parking is open on the weekends. (See map on p. 3.) Turn into the lot off Big Bend Blvd., or turn right on Wydown BLvd, and then immediately right again into the horseshoe drive. If all else fails, there is street parking on Wydown (westbound).

If you have questions about anything, contact:
David K. Robinson, MOAAUP president
Phone: (573) 881-1229
Email: davidrobinson19732@gmail.com
Why a MOAAUP Committee A?

The officers of Missouri Conference, meeting in Kansas City last November 16, discussed a proposal to formalize something that we have always handled in an informal way: we need a formal Committee A, or Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, for MOAAUP. Heretofore, when issues of academic freedom or threats to tenure had arisen, the officers would respond directly, perhaps calling on experts to help in a somewhat ad-hoc way.

Experience of the chapter at St. Louis University suggests that a formal Committee A, easily contacted through our MOAAUP website, would be a good idea. In the throes of their votes of no-confidence in their vice-president and president, and in the hostile and threatening environment that ensued, the SLU chapter officers were becoming overwhelmed. They wanted to center and focus the organization for all the important work it had to do, but they also wanted to have some solid AAUP members who could discretely handle personal cases brought to the chapter, as people felt (indeed knew) that they were facing retaliation for their exercise of academic freedom. They formed a chapter Committee A.

Following recommendations of our members from SLU, we now consider establishing and supporting a MOAAUP Committee A. Such committees function in our neighboring state of Kansas and in many others. The website of AAUP-national recommends and advises chapters and state conferences in this effort: http://www.aaup.org/about/elected-leaders/assembly-state-conferences/conference-support/state-conference-committee

Southern and SLU, cont. from p. 1

against firm barriers, as the governing boards really had no choice but to end those failing administrations. Both institutions are currently searching for new leadership, and faculty are taking a strong interest.

Once the brief presentations at the national meeting were over, it occurred to the delegates and officers of MOAAUP that these experiences deserve more of our attention. And so we will devote our annual meeting on March 1 to reliving the experiences of Southern and SLU, and to drawing from them what wisdom and lessons we can. Because we are concentrating our meeting on this discussion, all those in attendance are welcome to add their experiences, concerns, and fears.

*Has shared governance been faltering or failing at your institution? How is academic freedom threatened when this happens? Can you offer some suggestions and solutions from your experiences? Your stories and questions will be heard and thoughtfully considered by people at the annual MOAAUP meeting, people who may have already “been there” and certainly care, in any case.*

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For more about Missouri Conference:
www.moaaup.org

Tracking unwanted reactions to the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)

In April 2013, AAUP released its *Statement on the Affordable Care Act and Part-Time Faculty Positions*. The new health-care law “requires employers with more than fifty full-time employees to provide health benefits to employees who work thirty hours a week or more.” Some academic employers have reacted to this requirement by substantially limiting the course assignments of contingent faculty (many of whom worked part-time, but also sometimes full-time), simply in order to keep them off the health-care rolls of the institution of higher education. This is a special problem in those institutions that use many contingent faculty—community colleges of course, but also Research-1 universities.

The AAUP statement encourages institutions to calculate “work hours” fairly, including class preparation time and many other activities such as grading, meetings, advising, professional development, etc.

Colleges and universities should realize the importance of providing health insurance to employees; we call on them to comply with the law and devise fair methods of calculating adjunct faculty hours, methods that fully take into account the many activities in which such faculty members engage. We have been dismayed by news reports of a handful of colleges and universities that have threatened to cut the course loads of part-time faculty members specifically in order to evade this provision of the law. Such actions are reprehensible, penalizing part-time faculty members both by depriving them access to affordable health care as intended by law and by reducing their income.

The statement ends with an appeal to AAUP activists:

We call on our campus chapters and state conferences to exercise vigilance at the local level and to work with members of the campus community as well as community organizations concerned with social justice and local unions in ensuring that college and university administrations comply fully with the intent of the law.

If you have anecdotal or documentary evidence of such “reprehensible actions” mentioned above, please share it with an officer of MOAAUP. They are listed at the end of this newsletter.
MOAAUP Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 1, Fontbonne University
Anheuser-Busch Hall (AB)

Tentative meeting schedule:
9:00-10:00  Coffee social, Room 109 AB
10:00-12:00 Business meeting, Room 203/05 AB
12:00-1:00  Lunch, delivered to meeting
1:00-3:00  Panel discussion on Shared Governance

Agenda of the business meeting:
1. Approval of minutes, 2013 annual meeting:
   See previous newsletter, p. 5:
   http://www.moaaup.org/pdfs/F13MissouriAcademae.pdf
2. Officer reports: president, vp, secretary-treasurer, etc.
3. Election of delegates to AAUP national meeting
4. Discussion of State Committee A (vice-pres.), plus any
   new business
5. 2014 David F. Gruber Leadership Development Award

Chapter delegates to state meeting: We urge all active chapters
to designate two delegates to this meeting. These chapter dele-
ogates will elect Missouri Conference delegates to the national
meeting in Washington DC, June 11-15. Other questions at
the business meeting are decided by vote of all AAUP members
present and in good standing (i.e. dues paid).
State delegates to national meeting: Any AAUP member con-
sidering becoming MOAAUP delegate to the annual meeting
in Washington DC, please contact a MOAAUP officer before our
business meeting.

National AAUP Meeting and
Conference on the State of Higher Education

When: June 11–15, 2014
Where: Mayflower Renaissance Hotel Washington DC

Highlights:

Wednesday night: Capitol Hill Orientation Workshop
Thursday midday: Lobbying visits on Capitol Hill
Friday morning: Assembly of State Conferences Program
   evening: ASC Business Meeting
Saturday am and pm: Annual Meeting Plenary Sessions

Join your colleagues June 11–15, 2014, for the AAUP’s Annual
Conference on the State of Higher Education, including the One
Hundredth Annual Meeting of the AAUP!
http://www.aaup.org/event/annual-conference13
Radical Rumblings from the Missouri Legislature

If this newsletter finds its way to you soon after its publication, the two chambers of the Missouri General Assembly (House and Senate) will still be churning their brew, which every year seems more bitter for education, and not only for education. Legislative season is January through May each year, with an occasional veto session and/or special session in the summer. Then come elections, in even-numbered years.

Probably the best, most up-to-date source on the blow-by-blow action in Jefferson City is the listserv distributed by Otto Fajen, legislative lobbyist for our sister organization, Missouri NEA (National Education Association). Go to www.mnea.org and link to “Legislative Action,” where you can sign up for the legislative listserv. There is apparently a “Missouri NEA” mobile app now too. The easiest thing is simply to email Otto himself, and tell him you want to receive his “Missouri NEA Legislative Update.” otto.fajen@mnea.org

Here are some special jewels, currently sparkling, courtesy of strong Tea Party influences on our current majority:

Weapons

The Senate gave first-round approval to the bill SB 613 (Brian Nieves) on Feb. 12. It “declares as invalid all federal laws that infringe on the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 23 of the Missouri Constitution” and makes it a state crime for federal officials to attempt to enforce those laws in the state. [Nullification, really?] The bill also includes authority for districts to have teachers and other staff carry concealed weapons and assume an additional duty as a "school protection officer."

The Senate approved SA 2 (Jason Holsman), which would allow designated staff to carry either pepper spray or concealed firearms, and would require a school board to hold a public hearing on the decision to authorize a teacher or administrator to carry either firearms or pepper spray.

Big tax cuts

The Senate debated SCS/SBs 509 and 496 (Will Kraus) on Feb. 11 but did not vote on the bill that day. The SCS phases in a 50% income tax deduction for business income over five years and reduces the top rate of personal income tax from 6 percent to 5 percent over a period of years determined by future state revenue changes. The bill also exempts the first $25,000 of corporate income from taxation and increases the personal exemption for taxpayers with taxable income under $20,000. These bills would drastically reduce state general revenue.

Paycheck deception

The House Workforce Development and Workplace Safety Committee approved HB 1617 (Holly Rehder) on Feb. 10. The bill imposes additional restrictions on how public labor union members use payroll deduction to pay their dues and imposes additional mandates on voluntary political contributions by public labor union members. Paycheck deception laws are an attempt to limit the voices of educators, union members, and other public employees.

So-called "Right to Work" bill

The House Workforce Development and Workplace Safety Committee approved HB 1053 (Donna Lichtenegger) and HB 1143 (Bill White) on Feb. 10. These bills would remove the ability of labor unions to receive compensation for the costs of fulfilling their duties as exclusive representative. They constitute the so-called "Right to Work" proposal.

Evolution

The House Education Committee heard the following bill on Feb. 13: HB 1472 (Rick Brattin) to require schools teaching the theory of evolution by natural selection to have a policy on parental notification and a mechanism for opting out of such instruction.

Most of these bills are not new efforts; they have failed in the past, even with current veto-proof majorities in both houses, as a few wiser heads prevailed. The past, however, is no sure guide to the future, so keep tuned in to see if any of these ‘great ideas’ will change our lives in this state.

One major wrinkle this year is that the governor and legislature have, so far, failed to agree on a revenue estimate on which to base their budget. The governor prefers to err on the generous side ($27.7 v. $24.8 billion) and then "withhold" when necessary; the legislature has recently been irked by the governor’s power to withhold, so they want budget legislation to start with the lower revenue estimate.

Those in higher education, including community colleges and private institutions, might want to track the following: Financial Aid for Higher Education

The Senate Education Committee on Feb. 12 had a hearing on SB 494 (David Pearce) to require the Joint Committee on Education to conduct a study of the Bright Flight Scholarship, Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program, and the A+ Schools Program.

Higher Education Performance-Funding Formula

SB 492 (David Pearce) would require public universities to establish five performance criteria. These criteria would be used to determine the amount of extra money an institution would receive when the state can increase college funding. The criteria, established with the help of the Department of Higher Education, must include job placement statistics and graduation and retention rates. Missouri uses a similar formula to fund institutions now, but the bill would make it a law, to expire in 2016. The state funds higher education to the tune of about $800 million. Sen. Kurt Schaefter, R-Columbia, added an amendment that the legislature can determine funding, presumably bypassing the formula if it so chooses.
### Missouri Conference Officers, 2013-15

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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 the Conference Service Director, John Harms. [JohnHarms@missouristate.edu](mailto:JohnHarms@missouristate.edu) (tel. 417-836-5676).