

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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Department Meetings & Elections

By Cindy White, CCSU-AAUP Chapter President

Dear Colleagues--

In the past few weeks Caryl Schiff-Greatorex and I have attended a number of faculty meetings in departments across campus. The purpose of our visits is to give individual members and departments an opportunity to talk with us about their specific concerns. We also want to hear any ideas you might have for AAUP priorities, activities, and goals.

These meetings have given me an opportunity to meet new members of the faculty and to learn about the work of others whom I have known for some time. I have come away from them both impressed and astounded by the quality and the resourcefulness of this faculty. In every department I have met true educators; active scholars who are committed to their fields, their students, their departments and their university. The quality and commitment of this faculty is not what astounds me. What astounds me is your ability to do so much with so little.

I have learned that while our disciplinary and scholarly pursuits vary dramatically in some cases, our concerns as faculty are remarkably similar. The overriding concern for all of us is a lack of resources. The lack of adequate travel money hamstringing a very talented and active faculty in English, Physical Education, and Counseling and Family Therapy alike. Members of the Finance Department cannot do research that is necessary to

advancement in their field without a data base that they do not have and see no hope of obtaining. Faculty members in departments across the campus are teaching in classrooms that are crowded with too many students who are desperate for classes. The overcrowding and desperation alike are a consequence of too few full-time faculty lines. Yet somehow this faculty manages to excel in their fields, in their classrooms, and in their communities. Imagine what we could do with adequate resources and administrative and legislative support.

Unfortunately imagining what we could do is not enough. We need to be willing to continue pressing our concerns with the administration, the Board of Trustees, and the legislature. Without such pressure our situation will not change. AAUP is committed to providing leadership in efforts like CSU Lobby Day. But we cannot effect the changes needed without help from our members. Individual faculty and

departments must constantly remind the administration of their needs and their concerns. We have to find ways to enlist the help of students as well. And we must also find a way to work cooperatively with administrators. Like many of you, I am working on all of these fronts. Imagine what we could do if all of us joined the work.

You can begin the work in a small way by remembering to vote in the CCSU-AAUP chapter elections. Ballots will be sent out on the 18th of April and are due back on the 29th. Please remember to vote. I hope all of you will think of voting as a vital but single aspect of your participation in AAUP. We welcome and need your involvement.

I want to thank those departments who invited us to their meetings and shared their concerns with us. We will continue to visit departments throughout the spring and are happy to schedule meetings for the fall.

AAUP Chapter Elections

CCSU-AAUP election ballots will be distributed, via campus mail, to individual faculty mailboxes, on Monday April 18. The ballots will only be distributed to members with voting rights. If you are not sure if you are a voting member, please contact the AAUP office at x23790.

All four officer positions, President, Vice President, Secretary

and Treasurer are up for election as are two delegates-at-large, three CCSU-AAUP chapter representatives to the CSU-AAUP Council and one Council Alternate. Please support your colleagues by participating in this year's election! The ballots will be due back in the CCSU-AAUP office on Friday April 29.

History Department Extends Full Voting Rights to Part-time Representative

The History Department has revised the department bylaws to grant full voting rights to a part-time representative. The part-time faculty in the History Department will elect the representative from among their members. Once elected, the representative will vote on all matters before the department, including the hiring of full-time faculty, selection of department chairs, and approval of new courses.

Robert Wolff, Chair of the History Department, said "part-time faculty have had a non-voting representative at department meetings for about five years. When the idea was proposed this past fall, it seemed a logical thing to do given that the part-timers teach dozens of sections each year for the History Department. Other part-timers serve as supervisors of teacher education candidates in history/social science. We depend on these members of our profession. A single vote in department meetings seems like a more than reasonable request. The only question that arose was whether the vote should be limited in some way. In the end, a senior colleague argued that we shouldn't create a second-class of membership within the department meetings.

The election has taken place, and Dr. Virginia Mitchell will be the part-time representative for the remainder of the spring semester. At our next monthly meeting, she will help elect a new chair for the 2006-2009 term and vote upon procedures for peer evaluation -- both part-time and full-time -- in the classroom."

The History Department at CCSU consists of 15 full-time and 22 part-time faculty members. Pursuant to the CSU-AAUP Bargaining Agreement, bylaws require approval by a majority of the full-time department members and the appropriate dean.

Upcoming Events

April 13: *CCSU-AAUP Chapter Meeting, Marcus White Living Room, noon-2:00 pm. A light lunch will be served and David Walsh, CSU-AAUP Chapter President, will be the guest speaker.*

April 14: *State Conference AAUP Spring Meeting, Yale Graduate Club, 6:00-9:00 pm. The event will feature speaker Dr. Svetlana Mintcheva, Director of the Arts Program for the National Coalition Against Censorship, who will speak about recent governmental investigations into artists "whose work explores the border of art and science." The \$29 cost will be split between CSU-AAUP and CCSU-AAUP for members and their guests. Please contact the AAUP Office at x23790 if you would like to attend.*

April 14: *Faculty Social, Memorial Hall, Connecticut Room, 4:00-7:00 pm.*

May 4: *Promotion & Tenure Workshop, Student Center Philbrick Room, 2:00-4:00 pm.*

May 6: *Sabbatical Leave Workshop, Marcus White Living Room, 9:00-11:00 am.*

Protecting Your Social Security Number on Travel Forms

Concerns about identity theft have been raised due to social security information appearing on travel request forms. The AAUP contacted the Travel Office and worked out a compromise. You may now enter your CCSU identification number (Bluenet I.D.) on the travel forms in place of your social security number. The number is found on your Blue Chip card; it is the second set of numbers, i.e., 600971-#####-12. Until new travel forms are ordered which reflect this change, please be aware that you can protect your social security number by entering your CCSU Bluenet I.D. number as an alternative.