

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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Volume 32, Issue 1

February 2005

A Call to Action

By Cindy White, CCSU-AAUP Chapter President

By the time you read this article, you will have already received several calls to action requesting your participation in CSU Lobby Day on March 2nd, and your support of House Bill 5681, *An Act Concerning Appropriations to Increase the Faculty at Public Institutions of Higher Education*. If you are a senator you have already heard appeals from me and from Dave Walsh, CSU-AAUP President, urging your participation and support.

But you don't really need me or Dave to explain WHY it is so important for you to contact your legislator and urge their support of this bill. You already know that we don't have enough full-time faculty at Central. You already know that the extent of demands made of full-time faculty -- teaching, research, advising, assessment, curriculum development, governance, service -- are imperiling the quality of all that we do. There is simply too much being demanded of too few. You already know that we don't have enough full-time tenure track lines. You already know that hiring more part-time faculty is not the solution. You already know that part-time faculty, like full-time faculty, are often put in the impossible position of being asked to do a job without adequate resources, e.g., hold office hours without offices! You already know that Central cannot

make good on its commitment to quality public higher education without adequate resources. And you already know that the resource we lack most is full-time tenure track positions.

I think you also know that you and I must DO something to ensure that these resources are forthcoming. I am urging you to join us at the Capitol for CSU Lobby Day on March 2nd. I am urging you to call your legislators and ask for an appointment to meet with them on that day. I am urging you to make personal contact with your legislators. They must know the strength of our commitment to public higher education in Connecticut is being strained to the point of breaking. If your legislator has already signed onto the bill, please contact them and thank them for their support. Please join us on Wednesday March 2nd; our collective voices can

make a difference. (Please contact the AAUP office for details on the events of the day, transportation, and directions).

On a different but related note I also want to bring your attention to the upcoming chapter elections. I especially want to urge you to consider running for an open office. We will be sending out a newsletter on the 7th of March calling for nominations for the following offices: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Delegates-at-Large, Council Representatives and an alternate to the CSU-AAUP Council. AAUP needs the participation of ALL of its members. We especially need members who are willing to make a commitment to serve as leaders of the organization. When you receive the newsletter please take a moment to consider contributing your time and talent to AAUP.

Part-Time Faculty Dinner

by George M. Murphy, CCSU-AAUP Part-time Advisory

Despite the cold winds and blowing snow, fifty-one of the sixty-six part-time faculty members who had reserved their seats attended the dinner and panel discussion on "The Growing Use of Part-time Faculty and Their Evolving Role in the University," held on January 19. The

CCSU-AAUP Part-Time Advisory Committee hosted the affair and provided a wide-ranging panel discussion on the multiple issues concerning part-time and full-time members of the professoriate.

CCSU-AAUP Chapter President

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Cindy White, welcomed the participants and said, "I see no distinction between part-timer and full-timer, we are all brethren in the same struggle. My interests are your interests, your concerns, and your empowerment." She asked that she be kept informed of any concerns of the part-timers, and mentioned the CCSU-AAUP Part-Time Advisory Committee, and suggested that they should be kept advised as well.

Dr. Tim Craine, President of the CCSU Faculty Senate and Chair of the Mathematical Sciences department, described the role of the Faculty Senate in the governance of the University, as "the voice of the faculty in decisions that get made, affecting almost all aspects of university life." He mentioned that the part-time faculty has senate representation.

Dr. Gil Gigliotti, English department chairman, spoke as the leader of one of the departments with a large number of part-time faculty, 46. He said, (tongue-in-cheek), it was easy... "Just pile them all into three little offices and camaraderie will happen, it has to if they are to survive." Gigliotti said that those who work with him are... "All good, dedicated teachers, and it is my job to make them feel as comfortable as they can be, and they will do well at CCSU." He admitted that the pay schedule is too low for part-time faculty, but part of the problem is national, as part-time pay is uniformly low across the country.

The final scheduled speaker was CSU-AAUP President David Walsh. He asked all of the members to be vigilant, and anytime something doesn't seem correct, ask someone, tell somebody, don't delay, as delay can have a way of perpetuating the injustice. He suggested that the grievance process in the contract does work, for part-timers just as well as for others. He said, "We cannot afford the luxury of falling asleep, when negotiation is in process."

Other speakers included Dr. John Harmon, CCSU Geography department and CSU-AAUP Negotiating Team member, who spoke about the CSU-AAUP Contract, and Dr. Tony Rosso, SCSU English department and CSU-AAUP Committee on Part-Time Faculty Concerns, who spoke of the changes he has seen recently.

A spirited question and answer session took place after the major presentations. Some of the topics raised included part-time tenure, seniority, and unemployment benefits.

SAVE THE DATE!

March 2nd

Connecticut State University

Lobby Day

Students, Faculty, Staff &

Alumni all Welcome

Come and be part of our legislative campaign for adequate funding for CSU. As you know, the reason tuition continues to rise is the lack of state support!

A bill has been introduced, HB 5681, An Act Concerning Appropriations to Increase the Faculty at Public Institutions of Higher Education. There are already 32 co-sponsors. If the bill passes, \$4 million would be allocated to CSU for more full-time faculty in FY'06 and \$8 million would be allocated in FY'07. Together we can make this happen!

Please join us on March 2nd. The day will begin with a complimentary breakfast, from 8:30-10:30 am, which will be held at the Officers Club at the State Armory to be followed by a short orientation session which will be held across the street at the Legislative Office Building in Hearing Room 1B. We will then visit legislators and staff in their offices and meet back in Hearing Room 1B to relay feedback.

Please RSVP to Caryl at greatorexc@ccsu.edu if you plan to attend.

IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE HAVE A LARGE TURN-OUT FOR THIS EVENT WITH CONSTITUENTS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE. LEGISLATORS MUST BE MADE AWARE OF THE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT AND CRITICAL NEED FOR ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR CSU!