Minutes
Augusta State Chapter of the AAUP
February 17, 2012

Members Present: Penny Alderman, Angela Bratton, Mike Bishku, Jeff Heck, Robert M. Scott, Bill Reese (chair), Mike Searles, Ray Whiting

II A. Minutes for Nov. 18 and Jan 20 meetings were approved as amended.

II B. Treasurer’s Report: Since food and equipment costs were donated for Steve Anthony’s reception, there were no related deductions. Savings account balance is $32.59, checking account is $1175.93. Thank you notes need to be written to the donors.

President’s Report: All items to be covered are included in other sections of the agenda. No separate report.

II C. Dr. Scott covered his attendance at the Center for Teaching and Learning event for part-time faculty, at which he distributed a brochure for the AAUP. Mr. Scott noted a blogger has been gathering data on part-time faculty; he plans to meet the blogger at the March state AAUP meeting to learn more.

Dr. Scott noted that part-time faculty members have not had a pay increase in five years. He is interested in gathering statistics on the percentage of contingent faculty on campus, the percentage of our students who attend classes taught by contingent faculty, and how we compare nationally. Dr. Whiting noted that Institutional Research was collecting the data, though the organization of the data in two different database systems made it more difficult. Administrative faculty data is clumped with contingent faculty data in ADP, but the organization is different in Banner. Dr. Reese suggested Dr. Scott draft a memo to the dean of the Pamplin College of Arts and Sciences, since one of his priorities is to address salary inequity within the college. Dr. Whiting noted the system for budgeting for part-time faculty is under review.

II D. Dr. Reese noted the forum was successful but produced relatively little new information. One item he noted was Mr. Anthony’s remark that not all four of the USG consolidations would make it through in their original forms.

II E. The presentation by Drs. Bloodworth and Whiting at the emergency meeting February 3, 2012, was successful in handling the high number of questions that arose from the cancellation of the SACS re-accreditation visit at ASU. Dr. Whiting noted that the reaccreditation process at GHSU also had been stopped in preference for accrediting the new, consolidated, institution. Dr. Reese thanked the presenters for coming on short notice and for their exceptional job of making the process transparent. It was noted that the AAUP should recognize the extensive good work Dr. Bloodworth has done during his tenure at ASU.

II F. There was no other old business.

III A. The state of Georgia AAUP meeting will be in Carrolton, Ga., March 31, 2012.
III B. Nominating Committee – The group selected Mike Searles and Robert Scott as the nominating committee, with Mark Fissel also to serve if he is able to do so. Names are to be developed for the officer slate, consisting of Treasurer and President, by the March meeting.

III C. Dr. Searles reported on his conversations with Dr. Patricia Nelson Limerick, a University of Colorado at Boulder faculty member, concerning the position of faculty fool. Dr. Limerick, a MacArthur Fellowship winner, served as “university fool” at CU, Harvard and Yale. Dr. Limerick noted that confidence is a required trait for the position, as is a lower level of concern about promotion and tenure. Dr. Searles provided the URL www.foolsforhire.com/info/history.html. Dr. Reese noted the position needs a permanent status with protection. A proposal will be sent to the FPC. A motion to do so was made and seconded and passed by voice vote.

III D. Dr. Whiting noted the email account communicationasu@aug.edu, an account to which anonymous questions can be sent, whether for the consolidation or other topics. Dr. Reese has access to the account. After he has passed on the question to the appropriate person and received a response, it will be published in the ASU Report for all ASU employees to see. The group discussed options for airing problems in a public forum, finally choosing a combined approach. The questions will be routed to the correct person, then read in public forums, then put on a blog, a process that also will allow continued response and discussion. Dr. Reese will examine options for a blog with Public Relations.

III E. Cherished Principles and Practices – Dr. Crute expressed to Dr. Reese a concern that the faculty voice is not being heard in the consolidation effort. In response, Dr. Reese, representing the AAUP, will work with non-AAUP faculty to develop a list of Cherished Principles and Practices that ASU Faculty can agree with and support. The list will be presented to the two presidents before dissemination.

III F. Dr. Reese reviewed the latest news related to the consolidated university. Dr. Scott distributed two options to note faculty concerns about involvement in the consolidation.