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Report on Activities of the IWU AAUP Chapter, 2014-15

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Report on Activities of the IWU AAUP Chapter, 2014-15

Chapter Budget

As of March 27, 2015, our Chapter's Credit Union account showed a balance of \$2326.21.

We ended the year with 48 faculty subscribed to our distribution list and 22 members are current in their dues. We encourage members to renew nationally and/or locally to help amplify the faculty voice on academic freedom and shared governance.

Meetings

This year marked a new discussion series open to all-faculty members which we titled *IWU AAUP presents....* These meetings occurred on the day of or the day before each Faculty Meeting and were intended to provide a space for topics related to that meeting or other pressing issues of interest to those who attended. A range of 6-12 faculty were present each time.

We held four Chapter meetings (two each in the fall and spring) and resulted in the following decisions affirmed by members:

- 1) Our chapter affirmed a member's question about local vs. national dues. Our bylaws say dues to the national AAUP and the local chapter are required in order to be a voting member. That means we must restrict non-members from voting on issues like Chapter Resolutions.

HOWEVER, as we feel it is important to be inclusive of faculty who wish to be part of conversations occurring in the Chapter, we encourage even those who cannot or do not wish to pay the national dues to participate in the IWU chapter. We hope you will attend our meetings and/or events. We need your voices to keep faculty governance strong at IWU!

- 2) In April, members unanimously approved two revisions to our Chapter's Constitution which are now included in file available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/iwuaaup_act/24. (The original document is available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/iwuaaup_act/5).

Proposal #1

Vote to **ADD** an item (#9) to Article II: Purposes

"In addition to its public roles of promoting the Association's core values of academic freedom, tenure, shared governance, and the economic security of faculty, the IWU chapter of the AAUP is available to individual colleagues seeking assistance with workplace concerns. Members of the chapter's executive committee are willing to listen confidentially to a colleague's concerns, to serve as a resource regarding relevant AAUP documents and campus policies, and to support colleagues who feel vulnerable. The chapter will offer to take an active role if the colleague's concerns are directly related to the Association's core values."

Proposal #2

Vote to **CHANGE** Article VI: Committees

From:

Executive Committee

The executive committee shall consist of the elected officers of the chapter.

To:

Executive Committee

The executive committee shall consist of the elected officers of the chapter and the immediate past president, who shall serve for a period of one year.

Actions

1) At our November 4 Chapter meeting, members decided to make a formal presentation in response to an announcement on November 3 that CUPP would hosting a Q&A panel with representatives of the Board of Trustees. An *ad hoc* Chapter subcommittee began to collect and assemble information on two significant concerns during this period of financial retraction : the curricular impacts of ongoing budget cuts and the languishing faculty salaries.

Our primary question for the panelists was: **What is the Board's plan to rebuild compensation rates and to increase support for delivery of the curriculum?**

The document presented (available at http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/iwuaaup_act/22/) contains discussion points submitted by the chapter to a CUPP and to representatives of IWU's Administration and Board of Trustees prior to the meeting on November 13, 2014. An addendum with feedback on the document is also included.

(Note: The document is restricted to campus IPs or proxy logins due to the inclusion of charts that may contain private or copyrighted material.)

2) In February 2015 members Joerg Tiede and Lynda Duke held a workshop on the IWU Faculty Handbook. They covered the handbook contents and how revisions are processed, focusing on those aspects that relate to governance and academic due process. This workshop was intended for new faculty members but anyone interested in learning more about the handbook was welcome. Approximately eight people attended.

3) At our Chapter reading group in March, we hosted five people for a discussion of *Degrees of Inequality: How the Politics of Higher Education Sabotaged the American Dream* by Suzanne Mettler. The group discussed the issues raised regarding the effects n IWU of for-profit educational institutions and then turned to what influences we might have over funding policies at the federal or state level. We also expressed an interest in more campus-wide focus on and promotion of the liberal arts.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Miner, 2013-15 IWU AAUP Chapter Secretary-Treasurer