Our New Chapter Officers

The March 2011 issue of Western Union announced the election of our Chapter officers and called for nominations/willingness to serve. There were two nominations for three vacant positions. Article VI, Section 2 B of the WCSU-AAUP bylaws states, “When only one person is willing to serve in an office, the Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee shall declare that person elected to that office.”

http://www.wcsu.edu/aaup/bylaws.asp Accordingly, it is my pleasure to declare that the following colleagues have been elected for two year terms (2011-2013). They will assume their respective offices on June 1, 2011.

Daryle Browne (Nursing) – Council Member
Patricia O’Neill (Psychology) – Council Member

-Russ Gladstone (Library), Chair, WCSU-AAUP Nominations and Elections Committee, Spring 2011.

(The members of the Nominations and Elections Committee were Russ Gladstone (Chair) (Library), James Donegan (Accounting), and Oluwole Owoye (Social Sciences).

Council Member

Represents this Chapter on the CSU-AAUP Council*, reports Council proceedings to the Executive Committee and to the membership, and brings appropriate Chapter recommendations and decisions to the Council meetings.

The CSU-AAUP Council sets policy and negotiation priorities, and oversees the contract at the state level. The Council also works with a state lobbyist who promotes continued excellence in higher education in Connecticut.

*The Council usually meets on the 3rd Thursday evening of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the CCSU campus in New Britain. President, Contract Manager, and Council Members are expected to attend the Council meetings.

Each elected Chapter Officer and Council Member who attends national or state AAUP meetings shall represent the organization at such meetings.

Strategy Meetings

On Saturday, February 19th, a strategy meeting was held at CCSU to formulate a response to the governor’s budget proposal as it affects CSU. Michele Ganon, Patricia O’Neill and James Donegan attended. These three AAUP officers also attended an additional strategy meeting held on March 3rd at CCSU to discuss the AAUP’s position on the proposed CSU reorganization. A third strategy meeting was held on March 21st at CCSU to further discuss the proposed reorganization. Patricia O’Neill attended.

Legislative Breakfast

On February 24, the WCSU-AAUP and SUOAF-AFSCME joined together to hold a legislative Breakfast on the Westside campus. Approximately 150 faculty, staff and students attended. After speeches by legislators in attendance, attendees were able to ask questions and express their opinions and concerns.
Chapter Meetings

Two WCSU-AAUP chapter meetings were held this semester. On February 22nd, faculty and AAUP officers met to discuss plans to advocate for the University in the face of the Governor’s budget. In addition, an emergency AAUP chapter meeting was held on March 23rd to further discuss the effects of budget reductions on faculty at CSUS. We will continue to hold chapter meetings as new information becomes available.

Meeting with Michael Meotti and Senator Bye

WCSU Vice President Patricia O’Neill and WCSU-Contract Manager, Russell Gladstone met with Commissioner of Higher Education, Michael Meotti on the CCSU campus for an evening meeting on March 9th. A meeting with Senator Beth Bye (D) attended by Russell Gladstone and Patricia O’Neill was held on March 16 at CCSU.

Lobbying Legislators in Hartford

Over 300 students, faculty and staff from CSU attended the appropriations hearing on February 28th to oppose the budget cuts to CSU. WCSU-AAUP sent two buses. WCSU-AAUP President, Michele Ganon testified on behalf of the University.

On March 10th, approximately one hundred and fifty students, faculty and staff from CSU attended the higher education committee hearing. WCSU sent a busload of faculty, students and staff.

CSU-AAUP provided bright lime green t-shirts at both hearings to show solidarity and help our supporters stand out in the hearing rooms. Meals were also provided.

2011 NCSBHEP/Baruch Conference

Russell Gladstone, Contract Manager for the WCSU-AAUP attended the 38th Annual Conference of the National Center for Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions, April 10 – 12.

Meeting With Legislative Staffers

James Donegan traveled to Hartford on Thursday, April 7th, to meet with Legislative staffers regarding the Governor’s budget proposals.

Student Leadership Award

Honors student, Michelle Sciarappa, was awarded the AAUP Student Leadership Award for this year. She founded and currently acts as the Vice President of the Gay/Straight Alliance; partnered to create and coordinate safe zone training for the WCSU community, is the resident assistant for honors housing and is involved with a committee to bring the Dalai Lama to WCSU in October 2012. Congratulations to Michelle on her $750 award!

End of Year Party! – Save the Date

Our end of the year party will be on Tuesday, May 17th from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at Chuck’s Steak House. All WCSU-AAUP members are invited with a guest. The AAUP will provide appetizers. You pay for your drinks. Come relax with your colleagues at the end of the Semester! Please RSVP to Elise at aaupw@wcsu.edu.

American Association of University Professors
Western Connecticut State University

President – Michele Ganon, Accounting (2010-2012)
Vice President – Patricia O’Neill, Psychology (2010-2012)
Secretary/Treasurer – Oluwole Owoye, Social Sciences (2010-2012)
Contract Manager – Russell Gladstone, Library (2010-2012)
Grievance Officer – George Kain, JLA (2010-2012)
Academic Freedom Officer – Steven Ward, Social Sciences
Council Member – Russell Gladstone (2010-2012)
Council Member – Patricia O’Neill, Psychology (2011-2013)
Council Member – Daryle Brown, Nursing (2011-2013)
Council Member – James Donegan, Accounting (2010-2012)
Council Member (2011–2012) - Vacant

Staff – Elise Silkowski
Higgins Hall, Room 115 A
181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 837-9235
E-mail aaupw@wcsu.edu
Homepage http://www.wcsuaaup.org

Remember: you are the union.