

BSU-AAUP COMMUNIQUE

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Shared Governance Survey Plan

The executive committee of the BSU-AAUP chapter met on December 9, 2010 and composed the following action plan to enhance shared governance across the campus of Bowie State University.

This semester the faculty senate and the faculty association took a principled stand for shared governance at Bowie State University. The realization of shared governance, however, is an ongoing process. The BSU-AAUP chapter supports the enhancement of shared governance in the colleges and departments. Responsible service on departmental, college, university, and UMS committees and ongoing evaluation of the state of shared governance across campus are keys to achieving this goal.

The current efforts to revise the faculty handbook, update the mission statement, finalize the university catalog, examine the first and second year experience initiative, enhance and formalize all student outcomes assessment activities, and other pressing issues requires the broadest possible input of the faculty. Thus committee membership involves not only informing constituencies about committee issues, but also soliciting input from those constituencies to impact committee deliberations.

In order to measure the state of shared governance at Bowie State University at the departmental and College levels, the BSU-AAUP chapter will develop a formal survey, to be implemented in late 2011, that integrates the content of the following questions:

1. Do faculty discuss their departmental budgets in light of the departmental and college goals?
2. Are the elections of department chairs held according to procedures outlined in the faculty handbook (hereafter, Handbook) to ensure the

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BSU-AAUP Chapter Meeting

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

All faculty welcome CLT Building (Room TBD)

Monday, January 10 from 09:55am – 10:45am

The BSU-AAUP Chapter will meet, as part of the faculty development program 2011, to discuss the concept of shared governance and its relationship to academic freedom. What do the founding AAUP documents say about this? Why is it important to preserve academic freedom? What are the current threats to academic freedom in the United States?

We will also present a summary of current issues that impact faculty on a national, state, and campus level. We value your input and suggestions.

AAUP in the Media

In the [Press-Citizen](#) and in the [Huffington Post](#), John Curtis talks about sabbaticals and their importance: "The whole purpose of sabbatical is to allow faculty members to do research, to engage in understanding new developments in their discipline and then to bring all of that back to their teaching." A sampling of the many others covering this story include: [MSNBC](#), [CBS, ABC News](#), [Salon](#), [The Anchorage Daily News](#), and [The Times of India](#). Update: Listen to [an interview](#) with John on Marketplace. (12/14)

"Tenure is there to protect academic freedom, so that faculty members can speak their minds, can challenge their administrations, and can promote unpopular ideas," AAUP president Cary Nelson explains in the [Yellow Springs News](#). (12/2)

John Curtis, AAUP director of research, presented at "Achieving Equity: Women, the Workplace, and the Law," an annual conference hosted by the Temple University Faculty Senate Committee on the Status of Women. Read [the article in the Faculty Herald or download the presentations](#). (12/8)

Also, read an article by Cary about the importance of tenure in Phi Beta Kappa's [The Key Reporter](#). (12/2) [source: [www.aaup.org](#)]

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representative role of department chairs?

3. Are appointments of new faculty done according to Board of Regents (BOR) and Handbook guidelines and with as much input from elected departmental search committees as possible? In the case of the hiring of contingent faculty, do the departmental faculty members have the broadest possible input, even though a formal search is not required?

4. Do tenure track faculty have the benefit of annual evaluations by peers as is required by the Handbook, so they can document their performance when it is time for ART deliberations?

5. Do department chairs and college deans undergo a periodic evaluation?

6. Do faculty submit faculty development plans and reports to the department chairs on an annual basis, as is required by the Handbook?

7. When there is a grievance by either a student or a faculty member, is due process followed? See BOR, 46.0 II-4.00-POLICIES ON FACULTY GRIEVANCES and the Handbook.

8. Have departments filed post tenure review policies and procedures with the deans and the provost and have these policies been approved by the deans and the provost, as required by BOR 19.0 II-1.19, number 3, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SYSTEM POLICY ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF TENURED FACULTY. These post tenure reviews are required by BOR bylaws to occur once every five years.

9. Do committee representatives not only report, but solicit input for committee deliberations.

10. Do the college deans submit proposed changes to academic or ART policies to the appropriate governance bodies for deliberation and approval prior to implementation?

11. Do the college deans consult faculty prior to the appointment of faculty to staff or other support positions?

Please email your suggestions for other survey questions to Frederick B. Mills (fmills@bowiestate.edu).

Annual AAUP Conference on the State of Higher Education

When: June 8-12, 2011

Where: Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Presentations

Presenters will explore topics including:

1. The role of faculty in institutional decision making
2. Challenges to academic freedom
3. contingent labor issues
4. Institutional rankings and educational priorities
5. Strategic approaches to furloughs, cutbacks and salary freezes
6. Funding and defunding public education
7. Increasing access to tenure
8. Online education
9. Assessment and accountability
10. Race, gender, and sexual orientation
11. Teaching and writing about environmental issues

Workshops

The conference will include special AAUP-sponsored workshops on:

1. Shared Governance
2. Understanding Institutional Finances and Data
3. Effective Faculty Handbooks
4. Professors and the Media
5. Sexual Diversity in the Academy
6. Scientific Integrity and Campus Research
7. Publication Issues for Faculty

For more information and to register see <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/about/events/anconf/> [source: www.aaup.org]

BSU-AAUP Executive Committee

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