

Report on November 20-21, 2010 National Council Meeting
(and subsequent updates)

1. **Committee A** reported on its approval for publication and comment its subcommittee report *Ensuring Academic Freedom in Politically Controversial Academic Personnel Decisions* (Ernest Benjamin, chair; Ellen Schrecker, member). The report is currently available on the AAUP website. The Committee had also decided to focus on revisions to Regulation 4c (Financial Exigency) and 4d (Discontinuance of Program or Department Not Mandated by Financial Exigency). Cary Nelson indicated that the issue of program closings promised to be a “catastrophic problem” for the academy and that the AAUP needed “a supplementary document with clear advice” for faculty. Subsequent to the meeting, Howard Bunsis and Gwendolyn Bradley published “Myths on Program Elimination” in *Inside Higher Ed* (March 31, 2011). Committee A has authorized a subcommittee to review RIR 4c and 4d, to be chaired by Michael Berube.

2. **Discussion of DOL and NY State Conference issues**—the Council went into executive session to discuss this—to be updated at this meeting.

3. **AAUP and UUP**—At the Council General Secretary Gary Rhoades indicated that he had met with the UUP Delegate Assembly in Spring 2010. He was working on revisions to the AAUP statement on *College and University Academic and Professional Appointments*, and hoped to present revisions to the statement at the upcoming annual meeting in June. Rhoades also indicated that he was considering launching a survey of academic professionals. Cat Warren will devote the September-October issue of *Academe* to academic professionals. The Committee on Academic Professionals has been re-appointed with Tom Matthews, chair, Iris deLutro, John Marino and Vijay Nair, members.

4. **Governance Committee and Governance Conferences**—The Governance Conference held November 12-14, 2010 was a great success, having to turn away prospective attendees. A second conference will be held Fri. November 11-Sunday November 13 2011 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, and will include workshops and paper presentations. Proposals for paper presentations should be sent to Lenore Beaky at Lbeaky@hotmail.com. The Governance Committee published a report on February 2 on its investigation of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, finding that the RPI administration had “contravened basic principles of shared academic governance.” The report is available on the AAUP website, and will be presented to the Committee, the Council and the full AAUP meeting in June for adoption and sanctioning of the RPI administration. According to the February 2 AAUP press release, “Both the RPI administration and campus AAUP leadership, however, have expressed hope that the current efforts to restore the faculty role in governance will bear fruit.”

Concerning SUNY Albany’s decision in October to discontinue four foreign language degree programs and the theater arts program and to notify about 20 faculty that their appointments would be terminated over the next two years, an investigating committee was appointed (Matthew Finkin, chair) but its visit has been postponed pending further developments. (The administration has since announced plans to allow some program continuation—see “At Albany,

Half a Loaf or Crumbs?” in *Inside Higher Ed*, March 25, 2011.) Finally, concerning the decision in February 2011 by administrators at Idaho State University to suspend the operation and bylaws of the ISU faculty senate, a report has been approved by the committee for transmission to the principals at ISU for comments. Following comments, the report would be published online and then considered for sanction by the committee and if approved, by the full Council and the annual meeting.

5. Advocacy Organizing, Collective Bargaining and Government Relations—Donna Potts (ASC Chair) reported on the success of the new leaders training program held in Louisville in October 2010. Howard Bunsis (CBC Chair) reported on the successful Bowling Green State University campaign and indicated that the 2011 Summer Institute would likely be held in Boston. Nsei Ufot (Government Relations staff) reported on the concerns based on the November election results. She and John Curtis had met with the senior education counsel to Al Franken over for-profit education issues.

6. General Secretary evaluation—the Council met twice in executive session to discuss the process for evaluating the General Secretary prior to a decision on the renewal of his contract.

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