

Report to the NYS Conference of AAUP, the American Association of University Professors

Due to organizational and budget concerns at the national office, there has been little committee activity for the Status of Women. Because of Mark Smith's departure and the two reorganization of the committee on government Relations, including Martin Snyder as interim director and now John Curtis as director with Nicole Byrd as the Assistant, the activities of the GR committee and Research are more aligned and, I believe, will revive the activity and information on state and national activities in the next year. Since John is also the research guru and staff for the Committee on the Status of Women, I can only hope that that work will be reinvigorated as well.

Government Relations and Legislation:

Kudos again to Jeff Kraus for ferreting out and including critical and germane information on Legislative issues of interest to the Conference members on both a national and state level.

Very recent news out of the GR committee is that the higher Education Reauthorization may be taken up in the next FEW weeks. AAUP

GR committee is about to circulate a strong letter from the consortium "Free Exchange on Campus". This is a promising act as it may renew efforts for joint work in federal legislation between and among AAUP, NEA and AFT. In addition, Free Exchange has been the lead organization in combating "the academic who shall not be named" and the ABOR non-movement.

I'd like to remind all members of the Council and particularly, the leadership, that Capitol Hill Day is Thursday, June 7, which would require arrival in D.C. on Wednesday night or early Thursday. UUP is again willing to coordinate the appointments and scheduling (our group is quite a herd of cats and the legislators are hard to pin down). It is imperative that those attending the annual meeting, let Tom P and Patty know their plans, availability and preferences for whom to see on the hill.

Continuing issues are the "accountability" and Secretary of Education efforts to control and manage higher education, apparently with most interest for the corporate educators.

Committee on Status of Women in the Profession:

While there have been no reports or meetings of the committee, the national office has been active in the family leave arena and participated in a letter to the department of labor expressing the academic perspective and need for family leave. In addition, the usual salary analyses are helpful in identifying anomalies in salary and professorial status by gender.

There is interesting research by Joan Williams of the Center for Work life Law at Stanford, which AAUP, the Center for Collective Bargaining n Higher Educations, AFT and NEA have highlighted in recent meetings. The work deals with subtleties of gender discrimination and "pipeline" issues, which result in fewer women achieving full professorships and administrative duties than predicted by the recruitment and tenuring of women in the earlier yeas of the profession. Some of ht issues are maternity and workload and others are institutional and cultural bias. I highly recommend her work.

Final Comments:

Like most of us, I regret that I can't devote more time and attention to communication of the work of these committees more frequently. I also regret not being more active in recruiting members to work in these committees and would welcome queries, volunteers and even being replaced. It is fascinating information and would serve many of our members better if we were more aggressively "serving it" to them.

As Kurt Vonnegut would say, "So it goes".

Respectfully submitted,
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