

Missouri Academe

David Gruber honored, nominated

Statewide training award is named for him - he's nominated for national Tacey Award

Missouri AAUP members voted unanimously to honor David F. Gruber at the annual statewide meeting March 5 in Columbia, Mo. In recognition of Gruber's outstanding leadership, members established the David F. Gruber Leadership Development Award. The award will help fund members traveling to AAUP workshops and conferences, and will serve as a constant reminder of Gruber's many contributions to the Conference. On March 23, Truman State University President Barbara Dixon presented Gruber with the Missouri Conference Plaque which commemorates naming the award in his honor.

Members also nominated Gruber for the AAUP's national Tacey award for outstanding achievements. Gruber's inspiration, energy and leadership at the campus, state and national levels is truly outstanding. At Truman State University, Gruber joined the AAUP in 1989 and served as secretary, president, newsletter editor, listserv manager, and member of the executive committee. At the state level, he served as Missouri Conference vice-president from 1993-97, president from 1997-1999, managed the listserv for ten years beginning in 1995, was editor of Missouri Academe from 2001-2004, and also was the Conference webmaster. Current president John Harms said Gruber was the heart and soul of the Conference and the driving force of its achievements. Gruber

began attending national meetings as a delegate in 1992; in 1996 he became a member of the National Council and served until 2002, including two terms on the Executive Committee. He served on the Credentials Committee for 1997 and chaired the Resolutions Committee for the 1998 and 1999 annual meetings. He served as chair of the Committee on Organization, 2000-2003, and chaired the Membership Task Force appointed



Truman State University President Barbara Dixon presents David Gruber with Missouri AAUP award. (left to right) Judi Misale, Truman AAUP vice-president; David Robinson, Truman AAUP president; Truman State University President Barbara Dixon; David Gruber; Martha Bartter, Truman AAUP member; Marc Becker, Truman AAUP secretary.

in 2000. David also served on the Committee on Contingent Faculty and the Profession from 1996 to 2002, and as a consultant to the committee, 2002-2005. His most enduring contribution to the Association and the profession will be his work chairing the subcommittee that drafted the AAUP's critical new policy statement on contingent appointments and their effect on faculty and education. As this partial list of achievements indicates, David F. Gruber has worked tirelessly to promote AAUP ideals of academic freedom, tenure and shared governance and merits the prestigious Tacey Award.

“Academic freedom isn't free.”

Stories inside:

Guild: current trends in the academy: problems and solutions

Fajen: Work for political balance, talk to promote values of education

MO/AAUP passes resolutions calling for improved higher education funding, supporting academic freedom and tenure of Ward Churchill

Recent academic trends: problems, solutions



Tom Guild addressing MO/AAUP annual statewide meeting

Tom Guild, chair of the Assembly of State Conferences of AAUP, told the annual Missouri state meeting of AAUP that the CEO model of university presidency has failed. Guild said that under the CEO model the university president is the chief fund raiser and in that role university presidents have failed. Guild said sufficient public and private monies have not been raised by the CEO presidents. Meanwhile academic matters have been neglected and students and faculty have suffered. Guild called for a new assertion of academic processes that involve faculty in determining the direction of the academy.

Guild also addressed tenure, faculty dismissal, anonymous complaints, heavy workload, and neglect of faculty salaries.

Guild said tenure must be strengthened so it can ensure freedom of teaching and research and offer enough economic security to attract men and women of ability.

Guild said senior faculty must lead by example and protect junior faculty from unjust dismissal and must insist faculty development is used for that purpose only, not faculty punishment.

Guild said that anonymous complaints against faculty carry no legitimate weight. He

I'd rather attempt to do something great and fail rather than to attempt to do nothing and succeed.

Anonymous

said faculty should not respond to anonymous complaints and insist that they not be involved in evaluations.

Heavy workloads are common on campuses and Guild said the solution must come in resistance of unreasonable demands. He said part of that effort involved insisting that tenure slots remain tenure track to ensure that colleagues are available to share workload.

Guild also told Missouri AAUP members that they must do studies locally to compare faculty salaries with administrative salaries and that information regarding salaries at comparable institutions must be publicized.

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Fajen: work for more balance, talk up values

Otto Fajen, legislative director MNEA, spoke on The Political Climate for Public Education in Missouri. Fajen said the strong political imbalance at the state and national levels is causing an overemphasis on Republican positions. The elections, in the short term, will have negative consequences; in the long run the progressive side needs to provide balance to promote a broad prosperity. He said facts bounce off someone who is captured in a way of thinking and that if the NEA and the AAUP do not provide policy leadership, no one will.

In the 1990s Missouri came to rely on taxes generated by capital gains which, as an indirect consequence of the Hancock amendment, forced tax cuts. The drop in the market caused a capital gains drop, hence a tax decline which led to a budget crisis. Nobody knew how bad the news was. If the

state cuts Medicaid (Senate Bill 539 cuts eligibility), the 63 percent provided by the federal government is lost! Up to \$350 million must be found to balance the budget.

K-12 is a fundamental right (Article 9, Section 1) but “there is not enough money” to meet the mandates. Public education will be driven into the ground because teachers must teach to the cognitive skills tests. A state constitutional amendment has been introduced to ensure that the courts have no say on school spending.



Otto Fajen, legislative director MNEA, speaks at annual Missouri AAUP meeting.

In the short run only bad things can happen – the free market (unchecked) enslaves people. It was noted that GATT requires social spending cuts.

Media is a lot of the problem. Local media are more willing to accept op ed pieces than longer papers.

Currently there are three bills on restricting fees at Missouri’s public universities.

The state needs to modernize its antiquated sales tax and state income tax which currently supports education up to grade 12. The public strongly supports higher education. Perhaps higher education and K-12 education could be in one organization where they could interact. Perhaps there could be collaboration between

MNEA and MO/AAUP. Education, including higher education, is a fundamental right.

The Republicans spoke to core values in the last election. The goals of the progressive side also very much support core values, but this was not adequately addressed. We need to speak to core values.

Parting thought: is the current situation one of those cases where human ingenuity (in cleverly framing the issues) has outpaced human wisdom?

MO/AAUP approves two resolutions at state meeting

The Missouri Conference approved two resolutions at its annual meeting. The first resolution addressed the funding crisis confronting public higher education in Missouri and “urges the Legislature to develop an adequate and equitable funding formula that is tied to a consistent and reliable revenue source.” Conference President John Harms collaborated with the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates for lobby day in February and proposed that MAFS approve a similar resolution. Harms said he was working with MAFS to provide a unified faculty voice across the state that would have more impact on the Legislature.

The Conference also approved a resolution supporting tenured professor Ward Churchill of University of Colorado who is under attack for controversial remarks he made concerning 911. Specifically the resolution “urges the national AAUP, the Assembly of State Conferences, and all local and individual state conferences, to actively and publicly show their uncompromising and unequivocal support for Professor Churchill’s academic freedom and the tenure that protects it.” Contact information was provided for Colorado’s legislators and governor as well as top administrators at the University of Colorado.

Resolution

Missouri Conference American Association of University Professors Annual Meeting Columbia, Missouri March 5, 2005

Appropriations for Public Higher Education in Missouri

The Missouri Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is disturbed by the current state of public higher education in the state. Consider the following educational indicators*:

- Missouri has the lowest per capita funding support for higher education among its surrounding states: MO=\$321, KS=\$496, AR=\$449, OK=\$477, IA=\$507, IL=\$411.
- Appropriations for Missouri's public institutions of higher education were cut \$140 million in FY2003 and FY2004.
- Higher education cuts have resulted in a \$1,700 average tuition increase for Missouri's public 4 year institutions, affecting 80,000 Missouri students.
- Missouri ranks second in the nation in tuition hikes in the last two years.
- Between 1991 and 2003, Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

student enrollment in Missouri's public colleges and universities declined by more than 3%, while the national trend was an increase of 18.7%. Missouri is one of only 3 states to have a FTE decline in this period.

- Missouri's state support for public higher education has declined as a percentage of the overall state budget from 8.3% in FY1980 to 6.8% in FY2000 to 5.8% in FY2003.

These indicators reveal that public higher education in Missouri is not funded adequately to achieve its mission. Accordingly, the Missouri Conference of the American Association of University Professors urges the Legislature to develop an adequate and equitable funding formula that is tied to a consistent and reliable revenue source.

* sources and analysis can be located at:

<http://organizations.smsu.edu/aaup/aaup-budget-whitepaper-04%20rev%20Feb%202005.doc>