

AAUP

Truman State
University
September 2000

SPOTLIGHT

Academic Policies Hard to Find

Truman Lacking Centralized Administrative Web Page

An August review of public university Web sites around the state revealed that Truman is one of the only major Missouri institutions without a Web page posting academic policies and procedures. Most other state universities have a Web site for the Vice President of Academic Affairs, or equivalent, promulgating such information as the faculty handbook and VPAA policy memoranda. The office of the VPAA at Truman does not have a Web page. Lacking a centralized location, the few university policies that are published on the Web at Truman are widely dispersed and not easy to locate.

University policy for business travel and expense, for example, is found under Business Office, Accounts Payable (although information concerning the faculty 'Permission to be Absent from Campus' form appears to be missing); information regarding the

Institutional Review Board is posted under Grants. Two cornerstones of institutional academic policies, the Faculty Handbook and VPAA policies and procedures, are apparently not published on Truman's Website.

A partial listing of the kinds of policy-oriented information that can be found on other university Web sites around Missouri includes the following: the role and scope of Academic Affairs; VPAA policy memoranda; hiring policy; academic leaves; curriculum revision procedure; faculty teaching workload guidelines; salary schedules and policies; retirement policy; grievance policy; capital project prioritization and scheduling; policy on fiscal responsibility; faculty research; laboratory hazardous waste policy; recycling policies; administrative appointments; summer period compensation; absences of

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TENTATIVE AAUP AGENDA 2000-2001

- SEPT: WEB PRESENCE
- OCT: FACULTY COMPENSATION
- NOV: ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
- DEC-JAN: FACULTY ATTRITION
- FEB: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
- MAR: UNIVERSITY BUDGETS
- APR: TBA

These are intended as general themes only. Bring your ideas to the meetings

AAUP CHAPTER MEETING

WHEN:
Friday, Sept. 15
4:30 - 5:30

WHERE:
The Wooden Nickel
114 S. Elson

*Followed by a social hour from
5:30 - 6:30*

(Everyone Welcome)

AAUP: Who We Are, What We Do

Academic Freedom and Tenure, and a lot more

At the foundation of AAUP's mission is the *1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure*. This statement, underscoring the principles of freedom of inquiry and the importance of academic tenure, has been endorsed by over 150 academic professional organizations and is cited in university Faculty Handbooks throughout the country (including Truman's). A brief history of the Statement is described in the 1995 AAUP 'Redbook': *In 1940, following a series of joint conferences begun in 1934, representatives of the American Association of University Professors and the Association of American Colleges (now the Association of American Colleges and Universities) agreed upon a restatement of principles set forth in the 1925 Conference Statement on Academic Freedom and Tenure. This restatement is known to the profession as the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure* (p. 3).

But the AAUP does more than protect academic freedom and due process. Over the years, AAUP has issued a number of policy statements on a wide variety of subjects pertinent to faculty in higher education. These include professional ethics, faculty workload, discrimination, faculty benefits, and college and university government. The principle policy statement on university government has been recognized by the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) and commended to governing boards which are members of the Association. Specific policy statements on matters such as "faculty participation in the selection, evaluation, and retention of administrators," and "the role of faculty in budgetary and salary matters" have also been issued.

AAUP monitors state and federal legislation that could impact higher education and maintains an

active lobbying presence in Congress and the Missouri General Assembly. Lobbyists and state conference officers insure that legislators are aware of faculty perspectives on issues such as distance education, outcomes assessment and faculty representation on university governing boards.

This academic year will be a busy one for AAUP. The agenda for the Truman chapter includes information sharing and the Web, faculty compensation and the assessment program—which the newsletter and chapter meetings will focus on in September, October, and November respectively. Other issues of local concern include faculty attrition, faculty roles and responsibilities, the revision of the faculty handbook, the rumored reorganization of academic divisions, and access to public information (e.g., itemized budgets).

In Missouri the state conference president (our own Dr. David Gruber) will be working for legislative approval of faculty representation on college and university governing boards.

Nationally AAUP will be focusing on issues such as meaningful shared governance (see for example the Fall 2000 *Footnotes*), civic engagement and higher education (see *Academe*, July-August 2000), intellectual property, and faculty workload. The new 2000 edition of the AAUP "Redbook" (aka AAUP's *Policy Documents and Reports*) will include new statements on these subjects, as well as graduate student issues and access to university records.

Positive Acronyms For ITS

There have been some noteworthy developments in Truman's technology sector over recent months. Chief Information Officer/Director of Library Richard Coughlin will be co-chairing the Information Technology Services Advisory Committee with Prof. Cathy Poyner (BA). ITAC is a broad-based committee that is responsible for establishing and monitoring University-wide technology standards, priorities and policies.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Garry Gordon and Prof.

Stephanie Powelson will co-chair the Teaching and Learning Technology Roundtable (TLTR), an organization on campus dedicated to maximizing resources for effective use of teaching and learning technologies on campus.

Diane Richmond, formerly of ITC, has been employed by Collegis and named Web Integration Manager for Truman. Mrs. Richmond will be working with Director of Public Relations Heidi Templeton, among others, to facilitate intranet and internet function.

The Plan, 1997...

"*In order to recruit the best students and to offer them a nationally competitive education, Truman must become a leader in the integration and use of appropriate instructional technology in the curriculum.*

Success in this venture will be dependent as much on the availability of appropriate faculty development opportunities and sufficient technical support as on the availability of the hardware itself...

Finally, as the technological infrastructure on campus becomes more complex and more pervasive, the coordination of services and the development of a broad-based plan for academic computing may require more coordination than has been necessary in the past. //

Truman State University Master Plan, 1997

AAUP Newsletter

Editor: Gary Jones

Editorial content reflects the opinion of the editor, not necessarily the AAUP chapter.

Letters to the editor may be emailed to Gary Jones at gjones@truman.edu

Truman AAUP Chapter officers for 2000-2001

Gary Jones, LL, President
Janice Grow, ED, Vice President
Marc Becker, SS, Secretary
James Harmon, FA, Treasurer

Members-at-large: Judi Misale, SS; John Ramsbottom, SS; David Gruber, SS, (State)

The Virtuality of Truman's Reality

Commentary by Gary Jones

Even if you've got the head visor, Truman's Web presence can be a bumpy ride. Bad links, dated pages... There exists an inventory almost excruciating in its detail, if you are interested (<http://www2.truman.edu/~gjones/gg/ggordon.html>). Until fairly recently there seemed a degree of administration support in this realm, including most division heads, for which the word "tepid" springs to mind. But you can be morally opposed to distance education and still be obliged to recognize, eventually, that in the new century a university's Web presence offers tremendous opportunity in the areas of recruitment, information dissemination and image projection. You can still think critically about technology and cross into the new frontier of online reputation awareness.

It has been suggested in the past by respected faculty that even some of the reputation Truman was inseminating into real bricks and mortar had an element of the virtual to it. If a two-word interpretation of "virtual" might be 'ideal excellence'—upon which word would we put the emphasis? Whatever your answer, consider the quote: "An idealist believes the short run doesn't count. A cynic believes the long run doesn't matter. A realist believes that what is done or left undone in the short run determines the long run."

Back in 1997 (and since) a relatively optimistic faculty member at Truman shared exhaustive reviews of Truman's Web site with the highest levels of the administration. Unrequited, alas. One letter concluded: "With a little orchestra-

tion, the power of our new computer server, and relatively modest investment, I am confident that Truman could paint a far more vibrant Web picture in 1998 than it mustered in 1997."

Real time passes quickly. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, there is now reason for some virtual optimism. Perhaps it need not be true that "What passes for optimism is most often the effect of an intellectual error."

...The reality, 1999

"*Despite Truman's growing WEB presence and dependence, there is no effective, formal organization and practice for controlling and maintaining the University's face on the INTERNET. This is a major issue. Despite the University's growing dependence on information technology, there is no strategic plan for information technology. Information technology lurches forward based on a series of tactical plans with little connection between plans developed by different staff within computer services and only haphazard connection to the University's carefully crafted overall strategic plan. There is no public strategic plan for information technology by which information technology might be measured. //*

Excerpt from COLLEGIS consultant's report, Aug.18, 1999

Did You Know...

Network Space

- You have digital storage space available to you on the Y-drive
- There are some University computer programs available to you on the S-drive
- You can easily share files with others by utilizing the U-drive
- If you edit a file in Netscape Composer, save it to your T-drive and name it 'home'—you have a Web page.
- Yes, you can access the network from a Mac, with software
- You can connect to these university network drives from home—with file drag-and-drop capability

MS Word Tips

- It's easy to print envelopes with MS Word; from your letter, use Tools, Envelopes and Labels
- Right-flush tab and the Indent button are two formatting tricks worth knowing
- Double-click on a word to highlight it

Excel

- For formatting, try View, Page Break View
- To get a worksheet to fit on a page, use File, Page Setup, then Adjust to %.

AAUP Half-Price Dues

Once every millennium you can join AAUP at a special one-half dues rate. Watch for your copy of the Fall 2000 *Footnotes*. Visit the Truman AAUP Web page:
<http://www2.truman.edu/aaup/>

For links related to this pub, see
http://www2.truman.edu/~gjones/aaup/news9_00

Continued from front...Academic Policies Hard To Find

administrators; academic integrity policies and procedures; and policies related to equal employment opportunity, among others.

A category closely related to academic policy is faculty resources. Truman fared better in this domain as there now exists a central Web location linking some faculty resources.

But several links are not active, and a number of potentially useful resource links are still not centralized (for example, faculty development, Faculty Senate, grants, the LSP, benefits, catalog, Master Plan, assessment, detailed technology support, advising worksheets). Some pages that are posted appear poorly conceived. The LSP page is descriptive but absent explanation, and the lengthy Master Plan document lacks vertical links and is difficult to read selectively.

Examples of faculty resource links centralized on Web pages at other Missouri universities include: academic technology and faculty technology support; faculty research support; student advising; committee reports (and listings of university-wide standing committees, charges and membership); commission reports; annual reports; mission updates;

A review of division-level Web pages revealed some uneven digital terrain.

accreditation support; enrollment management; new initiatives; facilities improvements; university collaborations and partnerships; community awareness; transfer and articulation; classroom technology integration; curriculum improvement grant initiatives; funding for results information; strategic planning; institutional research and budget planning; organizational charts; student wage rates; ad hoc committees; service learning; diversity considerations; and graduate school information, among others.

A review of division-level Web pages revealed uneven digital terrain. A few division pages appeared up to contemporary standards; most contained evidence to the contrary—including poor design, broken links, links to out-of-date pages, java script errors, absent or impotent division head pages, lack of links to academic advising pages, and lack of posted division-level policy and procedure.

Faculty Senators

Terms ending May 2001

Education:
Scott Olsen 785-4396

Social Science:
Teri Heckert 785-7530

Human Potential & Performance:
Brenda Higgins
785-4562

Military Science: Not listed

Science:
Tom Marshall
785-4281

Terms ending May 2002

Business & Accountancy:
Bryce Jones 785-4351

Fine Arts: Randy Smith
785-4440

Libraries & Museums:
Janet Romine 785-7418

Language & Literature:
Karon Speckman 785-7231

Math & Computer Science:
Ruthie Dare-Halma
785-7235

Division Heads

Bob Jones, Fine Arts
Scott Ellis, Science

Ex-Officio Members

Jack Magruder, President
Garry Gordon,
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Maria Di Stefano,
Dean of Graduate Studies
Lou Ann Gilchrist,
Dean of Student Affairs
Ken Hussey, Student Senate President