

AAUP NEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS - INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON

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RETRENCHMENT VS. EXIGENCY: TOPIC AT AAUP STATE MEETING

Administrations tend to use the word "retrenchment" loosely, as a justification for exceptional initiatives. The trouble is that "retrenchment" is a very flabby word, which can cover anything from a ceiling on long-distance phone calls to lost faculty lines or positions. Furthermore, "retrenchment" is an administratively-invoked procedure rather than a condition, and can hardly be invoked as a justification for anything. The AAUP has reserved the phrase "financial exigency" for those conditions which are so dire that exceptional administrative actions can be condoned. The problem, when almost all institutions are undergoing some form of retrenchment, is how to draw the line between routine economizing in the form of retrenchment and that more dire state of exigency.

Richard Curtis of IUPUI addressed this question at the recent meeting of the State AAUP. According to his standard, several conditions must be met before an institution can claim to be in a state of bona fide exigency.

For example, the institution must show that its very survival is at stake, and other remedies have failed to correct the situation: "If, in addition to buildings and equipment and peripheral programs, further cutbacks are affected wherever and whenever they can be found, and if, in addition, all possible remedies for producing additional income are exhausted, then and only then is the administration justified in declaring financial exigency."

Although campuses like Michigan State and the Universities of Washington and Oregon are facing exigency, Indiana seems to have a reasonable chance of avoiding that drastic situation. A key, according to Curtis, is the early involvement of the faculty in budgetary planning:

"One safeguard against the simplistic solutions that compound retrenchment and lead to financial exigencies is the direct and continuous involvement of the faculty in systematic planning for the future: short, intermediate, and long range."

Although we have a Faculty Council Budgetary Affairs Committee, it does not stand close enough to the center of the budget process to fill the role Curtis imagines. An enlarged mandate for that Committee would, according to Curtis, offer one more line of defense. In the meantime, the least we can do

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is to press hard for explicit and detailed guarantees of full consultation with faculty in the review of departments and programs that has already begun. AAUP-IUB has accordingly sent the Agenda Committee of the Bloomington Faculty Council a copy of the Minimum Standards for Faculty Participation in Decisions on Reorganization and Reduction of Academic Programs contained in the May issue of this newsletter, urging that the Council give high priority to the adoption of such principles for the Bloomington campus as a whole.

Copies of the statement on Minimum Standards, together with a brief introduction indicating points on which the proposed guidelines differ from those now in force in the College of Arts and Sciences, can be obtained from Sharon Smith, Learning Skills Center, 318 N. Jordan.

THE PROFESSORiate AND THE STATE HOUSE

Speaking informally to a gathering of delegates at the annual meeting of the Indiana Conference of AAUP, held September 19 in Brown County, Representatives Jerry Bales and Hurley Goodall discussed "The Professoriate and the State House."

Painting a gloomy picture of prospects for educational funding, the speakers remarked on the characteristic sluggishness of Hoosiers when asked to support colleges and universities. Bales said an informal poll he conducted at the fair in IU's home county of Monroe showed 58% voting against more aid to higher education. So there is an urgent need to appeal directly to the electorate as well as to their representatives, and to sponsor more publicity about the University's educational mission as distinct from its achievements in football and basketball.

Bales and Goodall concentrated their practical suggestions on the two key issues of how to make effective contact with legislators, and what arguments to stress once the contact had been made. Both agreed that mere position papers at hearings accomplish next to nothing. A lobbyist has to be on the scene day and night, working to get commitments from individuals and following every detail of pending moves and decisions.

Goodall underscored the importance of cooperation among campus groups, so legislators don't get contradictory signals. He also advised studying the record of individual legislators closely: "Learn to know friends from enemies-- then vote out enemies and vote in friends." The best way to reach legislators is through their own constituents: "Work on the local community. Get people to make their support for the school known through phone calls and letters."

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One member of the audience asked what approach to take in asking for higher appropriations from legislators who seem equally unmoved by comparisons with other professions and comparisons with other states. The point to stress, Bales replied, is "*the irrecoverable loss of the step backward.*" We must call attention to the Indiana "brain-drain," and make clear that the only way to arrest the exodus of talent and money is to train for high technology, which holds the greatest promise for the future prosperity of the state.

THE FACULTY AND THE FOUNDATION

In the meeting of the Faculty Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees in Bloomington in early October, Professor Albert Ruesink (Biology), Faculty Council Secretary, suggested that one of the main issues of faculty concern on the Bloomington campus this year is the Foundation--how it establishes priorities, what happens to grant overhead monies, why there are so few endowed chairs resulting from its efforts. In short, the Board heard the unpleasant news that the quality of faculty trust in the Foundation is largely negative, and the faculty doesn't like that any better than the Foundation does. It was encouraging to find the Trustees ready to engage the faculty in dialogue on this problem. Now we hope for some concrete action. There are several possibilities: the appointment of a Foundation representative to report to the Faculty Council; a report to the Faculty Council by the Foundation's faculty advisory committee; the circulation among the faculty of the Foundation's annual report; and faculty participation in search and screen procedures for new Foundation personnel.

STATE AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Richard Hess (Communication, Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne) was elected President of the Indiana Conference of AAUP at its annual meeting, held September 18-19 at Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County. Among those assisting him on this year's Executive Board will be James Christoph (Political Science, IU Bloomington).

Two former presidents of AAUP-IUB are candidates for national positions in the forthcoming AAUP election: Paul Strohm (English) has been nominated as First Vice-President, and Sheila Lindenbaum (English) as Council Member for District V, which is comprised of Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Professor Strohm has served at the National level on the Council, the Executive Committee, Committee N, and the Task Force on Faculty in Hard Times. He is currently Chair of Committee T. Professor Lindenbaum has served as Vice-President of the Conference and Chair of the Legislative Relations Committee.

WORKSHOP ON LOBBYING

The AFT/IUE will sponsor a workshop on lobbying, to which all faculty are invited, Saturday, November 7, 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 in the Faculty Lounge of the University Club. The program will include a keynote address by Representative Marilyn Schultz, and discussions by George Weathersby, Executive Director of the Indiana Higher Education Commission; Richard Pfister, I.U.B. School of Business and author of a study of university financing commissioned by the Indiana General Assembly; and Scott Schurz or Bill Schrader of the Bloomington *Herald-Telephone*. At 11:30, the audience will break into groups for specific discussion on action. The AFT has extended an invitation to all AAUP members to join this workshop.

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