TAU Organizing Committee Meeting

Friday, April 7 2017 4:30-6:00

1. Introductions
   1. Ian, Brianna, Nick, Eric, Brody, Naomi, Chelsea, Nora
2. Department Updates
   1. Integrated Holistics Health and Wellness: notified that, due to 3% increase in salary, positions would cut, and individual TAs would be required to teach for two 180 seat sections rather than one class each.
      1. When concerns were expressed to the supervisor (Paula Anghazi [sp?]), sympathy was expressed, but no adjustments were made.
      2. Currently, students are under ¾ appointments.
      3. The department recently had a director change, which has sparked some issues among the faculty. There is some concern that the budget is being trimmed to create a new book.
      4. Chelsea: The university is getting rid of fractional appointments, which may also be playing a factor.
      5. Kristie: All TAs should keep careful track of their hours.
         1. Brianna: TAs are already overworked, but will pass the information along. Uses hours tracker (app) to log hours.
         2. Eric: If you reach your hours limit, you can stop working
            1. Chelsea: if it’s averaged
   2. History:
   3. No TA issues
   4. Communications: No issues
   5. Medieval Studies: Will ask for copies of appointment letters to learn more about the hours situation for next semester
   6. Political Science: No issues
3. Eboard updates
   1. Nora:
      1. We dropped our first large mailer this week, which will go out to about 200 people that are not currently members. It is informational, and has a card in it, sent through campus mail to save money.
         1. Will do a mail chase program to make second contact with each person who was sent a letter. We are meeting on Wednesday, April 12 from 5-7 at the Vine Neighborhood Association office to phone bank and contact these people.
            1. We will send an email seeking volunteers for this event. Members can also call from home.
      2. We have other updates for later about tuition remission and the spring retreat.
   2. Chelsea:
      1. Had a meeting with a Biology student (K) about parking issues. Trying to contact parking services to take care of this
      2. Found out that the university is trying to get rid of fractional appointments due to complication issues.
         1. Not sure how to handle this. Considering contacting members to ask for their opinions on the matter if they are affected.
      3. Another Biology student (D) had an issue with use of his tuition remission credits in the summer. He was told that it was not an option. They are working to address this.
      4. A student in psychology was contacted by their department with a change in appointment level. It turns out that the class structure was changed, not his appointment level. His title in the classroom will be changed, but his duties and appointment level will not change.
   3. Eric:
      1. Filming: This Sunday, April 9, 1 p.m.
      2. Website:
      3. Interview:
      4. Meeting with Deirdre:
   4. Kristie:
      1. Trying to schedule a meeting with the provost, which may not happen before May
      2. Sitting Eboard working with successors to ensure a smooth transition
      3. AFT National Higher Ed conference is three weeks out (April 28-30). Will be in Detroit, at Motor City Hotel. Registration is free, and AFT is covering mileage as well as $50 of hotel fee (does not have to be Motor City, but that does have a special rate)
         1. Unfortunately, TAU will be unable to help send people to the event. Most meals are included, but dinners are not.
         2. Nora: going. Last year’s conference was very exciting and helpful. Good to meet with people who are doing similar work to ours from all across the country.
         3. Kristie: Can go for individual days, does not have to be the whole event. Will send the agenda out via email.
         4. Final OC meeting of the semester is two weeks from today
            1. Invited Lisa Mennick to give an update about AAUP’s issues.
4. Budget proposal
   1. Written by Finance Committee, chaired by Jaafar (who is at the AGEL conference in Chicago)
   2. OC vote required to send to membership for vote
   3. Eric: Would like to talk about employee payroll logic
      1. Nora: We are a union with a lot of turnover in terms of members and executive board. I work to build membership and organize in right-to-work. Employee payroll costs are a big part of the budget, but is seen as beneficial to the union. A solution to the budget blow has been to split employee duties between PIO, KVCCFT, and TAU. As such, employee hours may change slightly to accommodate that change.
         1. It is particularly beneficial due to the union entering contract negotiation next year, a consideration that will ensure that TAU has at least a part-time organizer.
      2. Eric: The current executive board is behind this change, and the necessity of Nora’s position.
   4. Naomi: Why is there extra money for office supplies?
      1. Wheel of misfortune, other organizing materials.
   5. Brianna: What does community outreach mean?
      1. Kristie: last year, we sponsored a welcome packet for SETA scholars, which was eliminated for the sake of budgeting.
   6. Vote: In favor: 7, unanimous.
      1. Will be sent out to members by Monday
5. Tuition rollover
   1. Grad College Rhetoric
      1. Three different departments have communicated denial of credits and misinformation stemming from the Grad College.
         1. One department denied the existence of the tuition remission
         2. One stated that applications would be required a year in advance
         3. One denied access due to budgetary reasons
      2. Concerning due to misinformation, lack of time to address the issue.
      3. We can’t help departments that haven’t reached out to us.
      4. Unsure how to move forward, thinking about sending an FAQ email.
      5. Deadline is technically tomorrow, but the university has offered an extension due to this being the first implementation
      6. Had a meeting with Dr. Mansberger, who declared intent to speak to the person spreading the rumors.
      7. We sent out a facebook notification and an email to the whole unit with information about how to apply.
      8. We may be able to file an Unfair Labor Practice because they are interfering with union business
      9. In order to grieve this, we need to provide documentation, ideally in writing, from department chairs or from members who hear things fist hand. If anyone hears anything about this, send those things to Chelsea so that we can build a case.
      10. Also asked for the number of people who applied for tuition remission and those who were denied. This information will not be available immediately.
      11. No departments represented have communicated the tuition remission.
6. Professional development grant
   1. Details: 4 $200 grants for any kind of professional development activity
      1. Email went out Wednesday with a google form application.
      2. Application requires confirmation from a faculty member.
   2. Dates: deadline – 4/19, drawing – 4/21(OC meeting)
      1. Information goes to Jaafar, whose Finance Committee is responsible for allocating the funds
   3. Brianna: How is professional development defined?
      1. Kristie: The term is meant to be as inclusive as possible.
   4. Multiple applications are possible, but only one grant will be given to an individual
7. Other business
   1. Spring retreat date options: May 3-6
      1. In the past, this has been part social time, part union business, with a focus on fun.
      2. Last year, we used Heronwood at the Kalamazoo Nature Center through Nora’s contact. If we want to use that space again, we need to reserve it today.
      3. We will aim for the seventh.
   2. Solidarity with GEO
      1. GEO is doing contract negotiations, and they just voted to go on strike.
      2. We could show solidarity with a shared picture with members.
8. Warm Fuzzies
   1. Brianna has been awarded the teacher effectiveness award for the second year in a row!
   2. Nick:Hopes to get to check out the spring retreat
   3. Eric: Deciding on doctoral programs today
   4. Brody: The weather is getting better!
   5. Naomi: Was chosen specifically to work with a professor due to attention to detail!
   6. Chelsea: A day away from finished the first draft of her project for graduation!
   7. Nora: Excited for GEO and its potential for TAU!
   8. Kristie: Both of her cats have recovered from serious illnesses!
      1. Also winning a teaching award!
   9. Ian: My wife is doing two tattoos today, and thus can afford to go out to eat!

**Final OC Meeting 4/21** 3301 Friedmann, 4:30-6:00