
May 2015 News and Updates

WMU Trustee Mary Asmonga-Knapp Responds to Faculty Questions

In advance of the WMU-AAUP chapter meeting on April 17, faculty were invited to submit questions electronically for guests President John Dunn and Trustee Mary Asmonga-Knapp. Time did not permit coverage of all questions, but Trustee Asmonga-Knapp has provided her responses in a letter, excerpted below and available in its entirety on the chapter blog (wmu-aaup.com).

On behalf of the WMU-AAUP bargaining-unit faculty, we express our thanks to President Dunn and Trustee Asmonga-Knapp for their attendance at the chapter meeting and to Trustee Asmonga-Knapp for responding in writing to the additional questions.

* * * * *

When I moved to table the motion for the President's compensation package at the March 2015 meeting of the Board of Trustees, I knew I would not have support from my colleagues on the Board. I could not in good conscience vote yes to the compensation package, when as far back as 2011, the administration knew there were significant issues regarding pay equity for women faculty and our administrative professional staff and clerical workers who were predominantly women. The trustees were notified in 2014 that there were pay equity issues, but prior to that we had heard nothing. When protests began campus wide, I pressed for resolution.

To my knowledge, other than myself, no member of the WMU Board of Trustees acknowledges any gender equity issues, whether tangible or intangible. They also do not seem willing to acknowledge the existence of a morale problem among faculty or other staff. We need to improve these relationships and work toward a healthier work environment. These conditions need to be acknowledged, and they are clear from the faculty surveys of the last few years. However, the tendency is for the issues to be ignored and blamed on a few rabble rousers.

Regarding the change in placement of the WMU-AAUP on the Board's agenda, I do not agree with the denial of the WMU-AAUP as a partner in shared governance. There appears to be a desire to ignore the WMU-AAUP contract regarding shared governance. I believe this change to the agenda has more to do with being outspoken and advocacy for faculty. I believe it is a punitive and unfair action by the Board, and I encourage the chapter leadership to continue discussion with the President.

We have to find a way forward. If we do not regard our faculty and the educational experience, we will have failed. I want students to be mentored and faculty to fulfill their calling. The way forward is by addressing these issues. I do not have all the answers, but I believe we do. When I say "we" I mean faculty, staff, administration, and the Board. We have to work toward a community of good.

Please note that the viewpoints expressed here are my own and that I am not speaking for the Board.

It is an honor to have been your guest,

*Mary Asmonga-Knapp, LMSW, ACSW
WMU Board of Trustees*

Call for Nominations: WMU-AAUP Grievance Officer and Contract Administrator Positions

The WMU-AAUP invites nominations, including self-nominations, for the contract administrator and grievance officer positions. The terms for both positions are September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2017.

Dr. John Saillant, the current WMU-AAUP grievance officer, has agreed to serve a second term in that position. According to chapter policies, however, both positions are required to be considered open as of August 31, 2015, and applications for both are being accepted. We are grateful to John for his willingness to continue to serve, and we thank him along with outgoing contract administrator Marilyn Kritzman for their service during the 2013-15 term.

If you are interested in either position and would like more information, or if you would like to nominate a colleague, please call the WMU-AAUP office at 345-0151 or email staff@wmuaaup.net. All dues-paying members are eligible to serve. The deadline for nominations is Friday, June 19.

**Special Association Council Meeting Thursday, June 4, at 3 p.m.
157 Bernhard Center**

Confirmation vote on appointment to Communication Officer position

A special Association Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, to hold a confirmation vote on a candidate for the Communication Officer position, which has been vacant for several years. The candidate has interviewed with the Executive Committee, which recommends her appointment. AC reps, please plan to attend what we promise will be a short meeting to meet the candidate, ask questions, and participate in the confirmation vote.

WMU-AAUP Summer Hours and Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

During the Summer 1 and Summer 2 semesters, the WMU-AAUP office at Montague House is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for lunch). Call 345-0151, email staff@wmuaaup.net, or stop by Montague House at 814 Oakland Drive during business hours. *Note: Montague House is closed for all university holidays and closures, as well as for breaks between semesters.*

The WMU-AAUP Executive Committee will meet at 2 p.m. on June 5, June 26, July 17, and August 7, all Fridays. All meetings are at Montague House.



**CALL US:
(269) 345-0151**

Web: wmuaaup.net
Blog: wmu-aaup.com