

# NEWS

## FACT continues discussing Pearson concerns

The Faculty/ Administration Communication Team (FACT) met Dec. 5 to continue discussing faculty concerns about possible agreements between the College and the for-profit company Pearson Embanet.

College Trustee Michael Oestreich attended the 90-minute meeting; Trustee Mark Walton was not able to attend.

Other administrators present were Academic Vice President Monica Posey, Chief Financial Officer Mike Geoghegan, and Dean Robbin Hoopes.

Faculty representatives were Yvonne Baker, Pam Ecker, Amy Richardson, Ryan Shadle, and Geoff Woolf.

Pam said some of the meeting involved revisiting topics discussed at the previous FACT meeting on Nov. 3 (see *AAUP News*, Nov. 14, 2014).

"Dr. Posey shared a summary of the topics raised at the November meeting, organized into 'themes,'" Pam said.

The theme areas centered on these questions:

- Is Pearson is an appropriate business partner for the College?

- Is the process being used to examine possible Pearson involvement appropriate?

- Is the faculty role in academic governance being recognized and respected?

- Are Cincinnati State faculty interested in using Pearson products and services (and have other possible vendors of similar services been considered)?

- Is the possible establishment

of a large "online college" consistent with the College's mission?

According to the faculty participants, Mr. Oestreich asked if faculty had comments about the presentation by Pearson representatives at the November Trustees meeting.

"I told Mr. Oestreich I agreed with some concerns the Pearson representatives discussed, such as their belief that our online

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## Unit 2 negotiations begin this week

Contract negotiations for AAUP Bargaining Unit 2 are scheduled to begin on Thursday, Dec. 11.

The current contract for Unit 2 expires on Dec. 23, 2014.

AAUP Bargaining Unit 2 is comprised of nine full-time faculty members whose positions were created as a result of (and may be partially or fully funded by) grants awarded to the College.

Members of Unit 2 include faculty Advisors in Enrollment and Student Development and in the Health and Public Safety Division. Some Unit 2 faculty members are part of the Pathway to Employment Center (PTEC).

Faculty members in Unit 2 work 220 days per year, whereas faculty members in Unit 1 work 180 days a year.

The Faculty Bargaining Team members are Geoff Woolf (Chief Negotiator), Darlene Gray, and Pam Ecker. All three served as team members for Unit 2 negotiations in 2011. Darlene is a member of Unit 2.

Chapter President David Simmermon said that typically negotiations for Unit 2 require fewer bargaining sessions than Unit 1 negotiations.

"We hope the Unit 2 contract will be settled in the same collaborative manner as the Unit 1 negotiations earlier this year," Dave said.

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application form is not 'user-friendly' enough," Pam said.

"Overall, though, I thought the presentation relied on a lot of jargon, and did not explain how Pearson services would help solve the problems they mentioned," Pam added.

"I also said I was surprised that Board members did not ask questions after the Pearson presentation," Pam said. "I had a lot of questions."

Pearson representatives are expected to speak at the January Board meeting, and to provide a detailed written report on their assessment of Cincinnati State marketing and enrollment activities that could benefit from Pearson services.

"We said it would be helpful if the written report from Pearson is available before the January Board meeting, so the Trustees as well as faculty members could review it and formulate their questions," Pam said.

Ryan said Mr. Oestreicher referred to the need for "due

diligence" several times in the FACT meeting.

"He said that before the College makes any 'deals' with Pearson, the Board needs to be sure that Pearson is a company with ethical business practices, and needs to understand exactly what services Pearson would provide," Ryan said.

Geoff said faculty raised questions about whether the administration and Board will do any "comparison shopping" for other possible providers of services that could assist the College.

"Mr. Geoghegan said Pearson

could provide an enrollment management system that he believes the College needs," Geoff said. "But no one has investigated other companies that could provide similar products and services."

"So far, the administration and Board can't say that Pearson has the best solutions; they only can say that Pearson is offering us supposedly 'free' solutions," Geoff said.

"Other companies might want to make great deals with Cincinnati State, too--but for reasons that aren't clear to us, only Pearson products and services are being considered," Geoff said.

## New Chapter Membership Chair appointed

Julie McLaughlin has been appointed by the AAUP Executive Committee to serve as Chapter Membership Chair, for a term that ends in October 2015.

Joel Knueven resigned as Membership Chair because of family responsibilities.

The AAUP Bylaws state that when an AAUP office is vacant,

the Executive Committee appoints a new officer to serve until the next election for that office.

Chapter President David Simmermon said, "We appreciate Joel's past service, and we are pleased that Julie is willing to step in as the Membership Chair."

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**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**  
JULIE McLAUGHLIN

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE**  
TRACEY STIVERS

**Happy Holidays!**

**Enjoy the break!**

**Mark your calendar!**

**(AAUP Chapter Meeting - Jan. 26 - 3 p.m.)**