The eleventh negotiation session was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016, on the CCSU campus in New Britain.

The meeting began with discussion of Article 4.6 (Assignment of courses to part-time members), again focusing on minutiae of language. The previous week, discussion of this article concluded with the two sides largely in consensus, but with the BOR team needing more time to discuss. Even though, at this session, AAUP provided revised written language addressing all the concerns the BOR team raised last week, they raised them yet again. The BOR side then indicated that they would need to break for a caucus session later in the meeting to discuss the article further.

Discussion then moved on to Article 16.5.2, regarding the ability to suspend members without pay in the absence of due process. The AAUP proposed new language to address some of the BOR’s concerns, in response to their stated need to think further about this article. They indicated a need to discuss our proposed revisions further in caucus.

Article 7 (Counseling Faculty) and Article 8 (Librarians)—in our last meeting, the time previously requested to discuss the non-economic governance issues in these two articles had not been enough, and the BOR team was still unprepared to discuss the two articles. This time, despite having agreed to once again put these issues on the agenda, the BOR team indicated that they would need a caucus before they could have this discussion.

Article 10.15 (Distance Learning and Education Technology) and Appendix E (Approved University Computer Use Policy). The AAUP team pointed out that we have still had no response to these proposals other than that they make the other
side “skittish.” There are major changes in the language, reflecting changes in the existing technology that the article and appendix are meant to address, but the other side has made no specific objections to any part of these proposals. The BOR team once again proposed to discuss the proposals in a caucus.

Next on the agenda were Articles 5.17 and 5.17.2, which address how class size limits are determined, and on which we are still awaiting a response from the BOR. The BOR promised to give a response after taking a caucus.

(The teams separated at 11:01 a.m. for the BOR to caucus on the various issues they still needed to discuss, and reconvened at 11:39 a.m.)

Following the caucus, Article 4.6 was discussed further. While agreement was reached on the proposed changes in most of the Article, the BOR changed its position from previous discussions on the last paragraph and asserted that their position now was the existing language.

Article 16.5.2 was then discussed again at great length. It appears that agreement could be reached on this Article fairly soon. On Article 16.6, even though AAUP had accommodated the only objection the BOR had previously raised to our proposal, now they came up with new ones. However, they remained unprepared to offer any rational alternatives, once again frustrating the negotiation process.

BOR indicated that they would like to adjourn. When asked about Articles 7 and 8, they responded, “Next time.”

The next negotiation session is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2016.

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John Kavanagh (SCSU, Mathematics)
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