



AAUP Alert! Fall 2009

Fall 2009

A Newsletter of the American Association of University Professors - Colorado Conference

ABOUT AAUP

The AAUP's purpose is to advance academic freedom and shared governance, to define fundamental professional values and standards for higher education, and to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good.

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Visit our website...
<http://aaup-co.org>

From the Co-Presidents...



**AAUP-CO Co-President
Dean Saitta (DU)**

Last week, the AAUP issued a statement titled "Conversion of Appointments to the Tenure Track" <aaup.org/AAUP/comm/rep/A/conversion.htm>. The statement suggests a need for a tenure track for "teaching" faculty at research universities, in addition to the traditional "research" track. The goal would be to ensure academic freedom for ALL faculty. The work of Suzanne Hudson and Don Eron of the CU-Boulder Chapter, who have been pioneers in this effort, was highlighted in the state-



**AAUP-CO Co-President
Laura Connolly (UNC)**

ment (along with efforts at many other institutions around the country). We applaud the AAUP's statement and CU's effort <<http://www.aaupcu.org/whatwedo/itp.html>>.

We, as faculty, must realize that scholarship is a multifaceted phenomenon. If we respect all aspects of faculty work as forms of scholarship, including service,

which we see as "engaged" scholarship, we begin to move toward a more unified conception of faculty work. This would recognize the importance of the types of scholarship now undertaken by contingent faculty as well as the full range of activities conducted by currently tenured or tenure-track "research intensive" faculty.

Importantly, we must expect all faculty—teaching and research intensive alike—to be involved in the scholarship of

service. That's the one type of scholarship that, arguably, is most important for preserving the freedom that sustains the other types.

As we have matured as professors and have explored academic fields beyond the relatively narrow ones in which we were trained, we see that although original research can "spice" teaching in interesting ways, it isn't necessary for successful teaching. Much more important are (1) a deep and abiding intellectual curiosity, (2) well developed skills of integration and communication, and (3) freedom to push the pedagogical envelope without fear of reprisal.

Today's contingent faculty have the first two but they lack the third. Ensuring the availability of tenure for all faculty, not just those who specialize in research, would remedy this situation – improving working conditions for all faculty and the quality of education for all students.

Save the Date!

The Annual Meeting of the Colorado Conference



Saturday, November 14
University Memorial Center, Aspen Rooms
CU-Boulder
Broadway and Euclid Ave., Boulder

Continental Breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Special Guest

Gary Rhoades, AAUP General Secretary

New Online News Source for Colorado Higher Education Employees Established

As reported in our last issue (Spring 2009), CU's long-time faculty and staff newspaper, The Silver & Gold Record, was recently eliminated by the CU administration. In response, a new non-profit organization, the Colorado Free Press Association, has been established by a coalition of CU-Boulder service workers, students, faculty, and staff, with the support of AAUP and ColoradoWins. The main purpose of CFPA is to publish an online state-wide newspaper for all higher education employees. Plans are to call it The Silver, Gold and Green. This title is a combination of homage to the deceased Silver & Gold Record combined with recognition of the fact that green is one of the most popular school colors in Colorado's institutions of higher education.

The AAUP-CO Executive Council is supporting this effort because a statewide voice for Colorado's faculty is important in fighting the drive to eliminate tenure and shared governance in our state's institutions of higher education. As AAUP members know, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), has been very successful in getting their allies appointed to governing boards and top administrative positions

at colleges and universities around Colorado. Free Exchange on Campus, a coalition of groups including AAUP dedicated to the protection of the free exchange of speech and ideas on campus, describes some of ACTA's efforts as "part of an ideological propaganda campaign designed to delegitimize the important work that goes on in the academy and shoehorn right-wing ideology into the curriculum, regardless of its relevance. In other words, it attempts to substitute politics for scholarship."

CFPA needs your help!

Please send short articles on the effects of budget cuts on your campus to coloradofreepress@gmail.com

Ideas for topics and short articles on other subjects are also welcome.

Donations are also needed. Send checks to:

Colorado Free Press Association
4800 Baseline Rd. E-104, #235
Boulder Colorado 80303



Widely regarded as an authoritative source on sound academic practice, the AAUP's Policy Documents and Reports, also known as the Redbook, contains the Association's major policy statements. Order your copy at aaup.org

AAUP-CO Chapter Service Program

- The Colorado Conference allows a \$300 seed money grant to newly established or reactivated chapters.
- The Conference provides assistance and guidance is given to reactivated or newly established chapters.
- The Conference actively encourages chapters to recommend members for attendance at the Summer Institutes put on by the national organization. Partial registration and/or travel assistance money is given with the amounts dependent on the numbers attending.
- The Colorado Committee for the Protection of Faculty Rights serves Colorado faculty at large, both AAUP members and nonmembers. The CCPFR assists faculty in resolving conflicts with administrations.

For details on any of these services, visit our website: aaup-co.org or contact Co-Presidents, Laura Connolly, laura.connolly@unco.edu, or Dean Saitta, dsaitta@du.edu.

CCPFR Begins Work

The recently established Colorado Committee for the Protection of Faculty Rights (CCPFR) was authorized by the AAUP-CO Executive Council in August to begin its first investigation. While details cannot be released yet, the case involves the firing of a tenured professor based on his political statements. A team of investigators will determine whether adequate procedures were followed in the case. The team will consist of one faculty member from within the state and two from other states.

The CCPFR will soon ask the AAUP-CO Executive Council for approval to begin investigation of a second case—this time for denial of tenure without adequate consideration and irregularities in the appeals process.

Details will be provided as soon as possible. If you have a case that warrants consideration, please contact Dean Saitta, dsaitta@du.edu, Myron Hulen, mhulen@webaccess.net, or Laura Connolly, laura.connolly@unco.edu.

State Conference Elections Postponed; Will Now be Concurrent with National Elections

The national AAUP began conducting elections online recently and has invited state conferences to begin holding state elections concurrently with the national elections. At their meeting on August 12, 2009, the Colorado Conference Executive Council voted to postpone state conference elections until spring in order to take advantage of this offer.

This vote changes our previous practice of holding elections in the fall. It also means that current

officers whose terms would normally expire on October 31 of this year will continue to serve in those offices until the next election is held.

There executive committee feels there are several benefits to this change. Data from the national office shows that online elections increase voter participation. This is likely to be especially so for the state because of the visibility afforded

by holding elections concurrently with national elections.

Another advantage is that this change can be made at no additional cost to the conference or to the national office because the company that conducts the elections for the national AAUP does not charge extra for including extra items on the ballot

Offices that will be open for election in the spring include: VP for Administrative Matters, VP for Community College Matters, Secretary, and three at-large members of the Executive Council, who are elected from campuses without AAUP chapters. All chapter presidents are ex-officio, voting members of the state conference Executive Council and no more than two members of the Executive Council may be from the same Colorado institution of higher education. A call for nominations be issued in late winter/early spring. If you are passionate about academic freedom and shared governance, please consider running for state office.

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Call for Nominations

Please send nominations for the following offices to Marki LeCompte, AAUP-CO VP for Administrative Matters, marki@markilecompte.org.

- VP-Administrative Matters
- VP-Community College Matters
- Secretary
- At-Large Member of the Executive Council (must be from a campus without an AAUP Chapter)

Note: Chapter presidents are members of the Executive Council. No more than two members of the Executive Council may be from the same Colorado institution of higher education.

Self Nominations are allowed. Please consider serving!

AAUP General Secretary to Visit Colorado

AAUP General Secretary, Gary Rhoades, will visit Colorado in November. In addition to speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Colorado Conference, he will visit several campuses around the state.

Although his schedule has not yet been finalized, we expect that Dr. Rhoades will visit UNC the evening of Thursday, November 12th, then head to Fort Collins for a meeting with CSU faculty in the morning of Friday, November 13th. That meeting, which will focus on the issues facing contingent faculty, is scheduled for 11:00.

He will head to Pueblo for a 4:00 meeting on Friday, November 13th, with the CSU-Pueblo Chapter.

Rhoades will conclude his Colorado visit with the Conference's Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 14th, at the University Memorial Center on the CU campus in Boulder. All Colorado AAUP members are strongly encouraged to this meeting. Continental breakfast will be served beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10:00.

View a video of AAUP General Secretary Gary Rhoades speaking on trends in higher education:

<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/newsroom/Highlights/UCpres.htm>



American Association of University Professors
Colorado Conference
c/o Laura Connolly
University of Northern Colorado
Campus Box 101
Greeley, CO 80639

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Officers

Laura Connolly and Dean Saitta—Co-Presidents
Marki LeCompte—VP for Administrative Matters
Ray Hogler—VP for Legislative Matters
Liz Nick—Secretary/Treasurer

The office of VP for Community College Matters is currently vacant. If you have an interest in serving in this position, please contact Laura Connolly (laura.connolly@unco.edu).

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

For information on organizing a chapter at your college or university, contact Jennifer Nichols, AAUP national field representative, jnichols@aaup.org, or visit AAUP Colorado's web-site at www.aaup-co.org. AAUP is a non-profit [501(c)(3)] organization.

You can become a member of AAUP by visiting www.aaup.org and clicking on "Get Involved" or by contacting one of these AAUP Colorado Chapter representatives:

Chapter:	Contact:	Email:
CSU-Ft. Collins	Steve Mumme	stephen.mumme@colostate.edu
CSU-Pueblo	Jonathan Rees	jonathan.rees@colostate-pueblo.edu
CU-Boulder	Marki LeCompte	margaret.lecompte@colorado.edu
Front Range CC	Dana Waller	danarwaller@msn.com
Mesa State College	Tom Acker	tacker@mesastate.edu
Pikes Peak CC	Larry Giddings	larry.giddings@ppcc.edu
Regis University	Martin Garnar	mgarnar@regis.edu
DU	Dean Saitta	dsaitta@du.edu
UNC	Laura Connolly	laura.connolly@unco.edu