



Winter 2008

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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From the Co-Presidents...



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

The Colorado Conference is experiencing a big change this fall as new leadership takes over after founding Conference President Myron Hulen retired from the position. Myron's tireless work on behalf of Colorado's faculty will be greatly missed, but we are glad to say he is not cutting his ties with the conference completely. He has been very helpful during this transitional period and has agreed to help with the Conference's new Committee for the Protection of Faculty Rights (see story elsewhere in this issue).

We thought we'd take the rest of this space to introduce ourselves to the Colorado membership. Dean Saitta is a Professor of Anthropology and served as the President of the DU Faculty Senate for two years, during which time he helped design a Senate blog. He also founded the DU Chapter of the AAUP during this time and still serves as Chapter President.

Dean can also claim his 15 minutes of fame after having been named as one of David Horowitz's "101 Most Dangerous Professors" in



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

Spring 2006. As readers of this newsletter are well aware, Mr. Horowitz has made a career of conducting a campaign of misinformation about "liberal bias in the classroom" and pushing state legislatures to adopt his "academic bill of rights"—an honorable sounding name for an insidious method for policing academic speech in the classroom.

As a result of Horowitz's book, Dean has also been vilified in the Denver press by right-wing commentators such as John Andrews. Fortunately, Dean believes in the power of free speech and has used it to defend himself and raise awareness of what academic freedom really means in his own writings in the Denver papers.

We hope to continue to press this point over the next two years and to educate the people of Colorado about what professors REALLY do. Sadly, we will probably have the opportunity to do so when yet another "son of ABOR" bill is introduced in the Colorado legislature this year. Although we have no specific information about an upcoming bill as yet, there have been no less than FIVE such bills introduced over the past few years and it's a good bet we'll see one again.

Several members of the Colorado Conference have testified against these bills in

committee hearings. The good news is that many of our legislators still respect academic freedom—enough to keep these bills from making it out of committee...so far.

In her previous role as Vice President for Legislative Matters for the state Conference, Laura Connolly helped organize testimony against two of the ABOR bills. She is an Associate Professor of Economics and has been a Faculty Senator at UNC for the past four years, currently serving as Secretary. She also chaired the UNC Salary Equity Committee for two years and has worked with incoming VP for Legislative Matters, Ray Hogler, to introduce a bill allowing for binding arbitration for the resolution of disputes between faculty and administrations in the state.

Laura is passionate about raising awareness of the lack of academic freedom for contingent faculty (to say nothing of the poor working conditions). As the number of at-will faculty lines continues to grow, academic freedom is eroded for all of us—tenured or not. As such, it is imperative that tenured faculty stand with their untenured colleagues. We hope to help Suzanne Hudson and Don Eron of CU-Boulder turn their dream of instructor tenure into a reality in the near future.

Dean and Laura both thank the Colorado members who voted to support our joint effort to lead the state Conference. We'll do our best to live up to your expectations!

Academic
Freedom
for a Free
Society



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 Elects New Officers

The Colorado Conference of the AAUP elected new officers in October. Elected to two-year terms were: Co-Presidents Laura Connolly from the University of Northern Colorado, and Dean Saitta from the University of Denver; Vice President for Legislative Matters Ray Hogler from Colorado State University (Fort Collins); and Secretary Liz Nick, who is retired from Front Range Community College.

Liz adds the office of Secretary to that of Treasurer, to which she was elected in October of 2007.

Marki LeCompte of the University of Colorado (Boulder) continues as Vice President for Administrative Matters.

Regretfully, the position of Vice President for Community College Matters is currently vacant as Ann Wilson (Front Range Community College) tendered her resignation from the post

in early November. The Conference leadership is working with Larry Giddings of Pikes Peak Community College to fill the remaining year of that term.



Visit our website:
aaup-co.org

Members from Across the State Attend Annual Meeting

AAUP members from CSU-Pueblo, Pikes Peak Community College, Front Range Community College, CSU-Ft. Collins, CU-Boulder, Regis University, and UNC attended the annual meeting of the Colorado Conference on November 15 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Denver.

The meeting began with Immediate Past President Myron Hulen recapping the accomplishments of the Conference since its inception in November 2002. Highlights included: defeating Academic Bill of Rights legislation in the Colorado Legislature five times; introducing a bill that requires the Board of Governors of



Crowne Plaza Hotel

higher institutions to have a political balance on their boards (which became law in 2006); and establishing or reactivating chapters across Colorado.

Hulen also outlined some challenges for the future. First among them is the impact on higher education from anticipated state

budget cuts. Related to this is the need to educate the public and state legislators about higher education, tenure, and shared governance. Finally, Hulen noted the need to continue efforts to recruit and retain members in local chapters.

Co-president Laura Connolly presided over the remainder of the meeting. Chapters provided updates on their activities; reports were given on recent talks with Colorado WINS and on the CU chapter's Proposal for Instructor Tenure; on the status of the effort to incorporate binding arbitration for dispute resolution into institutional grievance processes; and on the details of getting the recently approved Committee for the Protection of Faculty Rights (CPFR) up and running.

Three motions were approved. The first directed the AAUP-CO Executive Committee to appoint a chair for the CPFR and

to identify faculty to serve on the 3 member committee. The second directed Co-President Connolly to send a request to national AAUP for a session at the Summer Institute or the national meeting in order to discuss CPFR. The final motion directed Larry Giddings (PPCC) to contact other Community College members and ask them for nominations for the vacant position of Vice President for Community College Matters and to inquire as to the needs of community college faculty.

The meeting ended with a discussion of ways in which Chapters can collaborate. Suggestions included publishing newsletters more often and producing electronic newsletters; notifying other chapters when hosting guest speakers; creating a list of potential speakers; and publicizing the accomplishments of local chapters to all.

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CSU President Penley Resigns

Colorado State University (CSU) President and Chancellor Larry Penley resigned abruptly on November 5th. Shortly beforehand, the CSU-Fort Collins chapter held a forum during which problems with misallocation of legislatively directed funding were discussed.

A number of factors clearly led to Penley's dismissal, but the legislators who attended this forum are thought to have applied pressure on the governing board, and this apparently this was the "tipping point" in the matter.

The CSU Board of Governors is discussing the possibility

of separating the positions of Chancellor of the CSU System and President of the Fort Collins campus. Retiring U.S. Senator Wayne Allard has been suggested as a possible candidate for Chancellor. Several local media outlets have argued in favor of this idea, noting that a precedent had been set with the appointment of former Senator Hank Brown at the University of Northern Colorado, and later at the University of Colorado. The Conference has long argued that this precedent has not been beneficial to higher education in the state so should not now be used as

justification for appointing another former Senator to the job.

The Conference is most interested in ensuring the searches for the new Chancellor and President follow the well-established principles of the AAUP regarding faculty involvement in administrative searches. According to the AAUP Redbook, "Joint effort of a most critical kind must be taken when an institution chooses a new president. The selection of a chief administrative officer should follow upon a cooperative search by the governing board and the faculty..."

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-AAUP Redbook

Conference Membership Approves Committee for the Protection of Faculty Rights

Members of the Colorado Conference voted in September to approve the establishment of a Committee for the Protection of Faculty Rights (CPFRR). The Committee will assist faculty in resolving conflicts with administrations.

Under its detailed guidelines, each chapter will appoint a CPFRR Committee Chair to fulfill its functions at their institution. Specific procedures and actions for each CPFRR Chair to

help resolve disputes at the local level and to screen cases for referral to the national Committee A are specified in the governing document.

In exceptional cases, if the national Committee A has declined or is unable to act, the CPFRR may perform

The Committee [for the Protection of Faculty Rights] will assist faculty in resolving conflicts with administrations.

an investigation of an individual faculty member's due process rights or unfair treatment (not violations of academic freedom or shared governance). After extensive vetting and multiple layers of approval, the investigating committee may issue its report to the faculty

member's academic professional society. Appropriate disclaimers will be made that this action does not involve the national AAUP or its Committee A, and that any conclusions in the report come from the state level only.

For the full text of the establishing document, see the AAUP-CO website: aaup-co.org.

CU-Boulder Chapter Instructor Tenure Proposal Receives Attention in Academe

The Instructor Tenure Proposal created by Suzanne Hudson and Don Eron of the CU-Boulder chapter has been cited in the November/December issue of *Academe*, the bi-monthly magazine of the national AAUP, as a "particularly remarkable" effort.

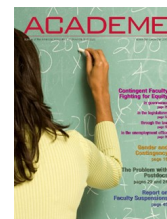
The proposal would convert full-time instructor positions into tenure-track positions after seven years with no

change in pay, rank, course load, or professional expectations. As reported in *Academe*, "What would change would be job security for instructors. 'Instead of reapplying for our own jobs every three years, we would have a permanent position; we would no longer be 'at-will' employees and would have academic freedom protections,' says Suzanne Hudson..."

In an effort to get contin-

gent faculty at other institutions energized to fight for academic freedom and better working conditions, several chapters have invited Eron and Hudson to speak recently. The talks have been well attended and core groups of interested contingent faculty have begun working together.

The next step is to get the proposal passed in the CU-Boulder Faculty Council, where it has already failed once but has garnered new support. If it does not pass this time, the Colorado Conference will begin the process of working with the state legislature to gain tenure for instructors in the state of Colorado.



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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

*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:

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