

From [Dean Saitta <dsaitta@du.edu>](mailto:dsaitta@du.edu)
Sent Wednesday, October 15, 2008 11:12 pm
To AAUP Chapter Membership
Re AAUP Update and Notice of AAUP-CO Annual Meeting

Hi everyone--

I hope that you all are well. Sorry for the long time between communications. I guess the last time we talked I alerted you to the fact that the Faculty Grievance Policy, revised in light of comments from the deans, is in the hands of the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee. It will go forward from there.

Another issue brewing at the moment is an effort by a divisional dean to establish a new, fourth category of faculty evaluation called "Professionalism and Collegiality" to go with the traditional triumvirate of Teaching, Research, and Service. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been discussing this a bit, and President Levine-Clark aims to take up our concerns with the Provost. Treating collegiality as a separate evaluation category is very much at odds with AAUP policy principles and can easily lend itself to abuse.

The AAUP Executive Committee started a conversation last January with the Provost and Chancellor about changes in the roles and responsibilities of academic deans given changes in higher education. We're still looking to have a follow-up conversation with Gregg and Bob when we can find a time that suits everyone on the Committee. Hopefully we can do that in winter quarter.

Finally, some of our members did good service last spring in vetting the candidacy of one of our newly hired deans. I recently helped the AAUP chapter president at another university vet an applicant from our ranks for a dean's position at her university.

So, I think we are doing some useful things. Now the new news. Please note the scheduled meeting of the Colorado Conference of the AAUP on November 15 in Denver. I usually go to these, but since I'm in London this term I can't make it. If someone else wants to attend and give our chapter report (which I think I just summarized above) that would be dandy. These are wonderful people who truly care about the future of Higher Ed and faculty rights in Colorado, so it's an invigorating meeting.

If you're a member in good standing of the AAUP then it's possible you'll soon receive a ballot for electing new officers for the Colorado Conference of the AAUP. I was invited to be a candidate for President and, long story

short, I agreed to run as Co-President with Laura Connolly, an economist at U Northern Colorado. I don't expect that we'll have any competitors for the position. If Laura and I are elected, then we'll need to find someone among us to take over the DU chapter presidency. If you would think about this—and let me know if you're interested—I'd sure appreciate it.

I'll set up a January chapter meeting when I get back to Denver so we can talk more about this and other matters of chapter import.

All best regards,
Dean

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