

From [Dean Saitta <dsaitta@du.edu>](mailto:dsaitta@du.edu)
Sent Saturday, September 22, 2007 8:12 am
To AAUP Chapter
Re Colorado AAUP Biz Update

Hi all--

FYI-- With the September 29 Colorado State AAUP Conference Meeting looming, there have been some spirited exchanges between the prez of the Boulder chapter, Marki LeCompte, and the National chapter organizer, Cathy Jones (who some of you met here at DU last February), about the quality of the national AAUP's help with respect to academic freedom issues on the Boulder campus. I took the opportunity to register support for Marki and to ask about the national AAUP's stance on some of the more high profile cases that have been in the news. The whole series of email exchanges is below...

With respect to DU campus matters, the Faculty Grievance Policy that we drafted is now in the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee. The Graduate School of Social Work has submitted its tenure and promotion policy which is posted on the "DU Policies" page of the AAUP portfolio. Nothing yet from any of the other units. Before too much time elapses I aim to remind the deans about the last junior faculty survey indicating that 50% of our untenured colleagues are "unclear" about tenure expectations in the units, and that another 50% think the expectations are "unrealistic".

I think we can take some satisfaction that we're moving the ball a bit with respect to some important issues on campus. Cheers,

Dean

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----- Original Message -----

From Cathy Jones <cjones@aaup.org>
Date Fri, 21 Sep 2007 16:37:13 -0400
To Dean Saitta <dsaitta@du.edu>
Subject RE: RE: Visit to Colorado

Dean,

Attached is a note from my colleagues in the Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance dept on the four cases you asked about, suitable for framing (and distributing to your membership). Please let me know if I can be of further assistance; I'll do my best.

--Cathy

Cathy Jones, PhD
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-----Original Message-----

From: Dean Saitta [<mailto:dsaitta@du.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2007 10:28 AM
To: Cathy Jones
Subject: Re: RE: Visit to Colorado

Thanks Cathy. It would be nice to receive the current accounting from Committee A regarding Churchill, Anderson, Finkelstein, and Larudee. Especially Anderson and Larudee. I've posted all the AAUP documents I can find on our website, but I think some updating is in order. Our membership would be very interested. Will you have someone send me the short version on each of these cases?

Dean

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----- Original Message -----

From: Cathy Jones <cjones@aaup.org>
Date: Monday, September 17, 2007 2:42 pm
Subject: RE: Visit to Colorado
To: Dean Saitta <dsaitta@du.edu>, Marki LeCompte
<marki@markilecompte.org>

Dear Dean,

While I defer to my Committee A colleagues on the Churchill and Anderson cases, I am gratified to see that you have established an active chapter at DU. As an organizer, it's axiomatic for me that a strong campus presence is the first line of defense for Academic Freedom. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance; I'd be happy to make time to talk when I'm in town at the end of this month.

Best,
Cathy

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-----Original Message-----

From: Dean Saitta [<mailto:dsaitta@du.edu>]
Sent: Sunday, September 16, 2007 6:58 PM
To: Cathy Jones; Marki LeCompte
Subject: Re: Visit to Colorado

Hi Cathy,

I have the same concern as Marki. We're a fledgling chapter here at DU and we don't have the issues that Boulder does. But we're worried all the same about the national AAUP's response (or lack thereof) to the issues in Boulder. The Boulder chapter has been an inspiration to us, with nearly 100% of our chapter supporting their position on the Churchill case. When I sent a copy of my "AAUP MIA" post about the Churchill case that appeared on Inside Higher Ed (last May 31) to you, Jonathan Knight, and Roger Bowen, among others, I didn't hear a peep in response. This was disappointing. I'm used to memos to administrators disappearing into black holes, but I thought it would be different with our AAUP leaders. I understand that there are brushfires all around the country. Perhaps my message was impolitic for a newbie chapter prez. However, the state of academic freedom and faculty governance in Colorado being what it is-and given our widely recognized status as a sort of national "ground zero" for political attacks on the professorate-you would think that a conversation would have been in order...if only to create some confidence that the national office is paying attention.

That said, I thank you for your help in getting our chapter up-and-running, and I'm looking forward to the meeting on the 29th.

Dean

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> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Marki LeCompte <marki@markilecompte.org>
> Date: Sunday, September 16, 2007 11:38 am
> Subject: Re: Visit to Colorado
> To: Cathy Jones <cjones@aaup.org>

Dear Cathy;

We'd love to see you, and will plan to do so. We'll welcome any help you can offer. However, quite frankly, it's very hard to get the membership numbers up when it's clear that the national organization isn't

willing to do anything to really support the most egregious violations of academic freedom here in Boulder. Our experience is that our own hard work goes to naught when we need help from the big guys in Washington. And it isn't just us. We know from discussions with chapters elsewhere that asking the national office for real backup regarding academic freedom leaves us with egg on our faces. And that hurts credibility incredibly. We'll look forward to seeing you and to discussing this and other issues!

Marki LeCompte