

From [Dean Saitta <dsaitta@du.edu>](mailto:dsaitta@du.edu)

Sent Friday, April 13, 2007 7:15 pm

To AAUP Chapter

Re Chapter Formation and Churchill Action Item

Attachments

[Mayer Report on Churchill.doc](#) 40K [Churchill Response to CU Report.doc](#) 44K [CU AAUP Chapter Statement.doc](#) 31K
[SALT petition.doc](#) 31K [Saitta Letter to CU.doc](#) 40K [NYRB Letter.pdf](#) 1.1MB

Dear All:

At today's meeting we decided to establish a DU chapter of AAUP. We approved the bylaws that I sent yesterday. We elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

President: Dean Saitta, Anthropology.

Vice President: Scott Leutenegger, Computer Science.

Secretary/Treasurer: Pending.

Executive Committee At-Large member: Roberto Corrada, Law.

Executive Committee At-Large member: Naomi Reshotko, Philosophy.

We talked about what an AAUP chapter could do for us at DU. Chief among the virtues of having a chapter is the opportunity it provides for a self-selected and committed group of faculty to get together across academic boundaries and discuss issues of common concern. We had a wide-ranging discussion about faculty governance issues at DU. These include the need for a better faculty grievance policy on campus. Saitta will take up some of these issues in a meeting with the university ombudperson on April 20, but the discussion will be continuing.

A concern was expressed about our need to take a stand on perhaps the most important faculty governance issue that is currently percolating in Colorado, that of the pending termination of embattled CU Ethnic Studies professor Ward Churchill. The AAUP chapter at CU Boulder has already issued a statement calling for the CU administration to reverse its decision to fire Professor Churchill on grounds of process. Before considering a motion to join our CU colleagues in this effort, we decided that chapter members should be provided with documents relating to the case.

The CU Investigative Committee report on Churchill is at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/news/reports/churchill/churchillreport051606.html>

The following related documents are attached to this email:

1. An analysis of the Investigative Committee's report by Tom Mayer, professor of sociology at CU-Boulder.
2. Professor Churchill's response to the Investigative Committee report.
3. The CU AAUP chapter's statement on the case.
4. A statement by the Society for American Law Teachers.
5. A letter to the CU administration from the DU Faculty Senate president, and CU's *response*.
6. A *New York Review of Books* letter by prominent scholars and public intellectuals.

We will be back in touch shortly to make a decision about how we want to proceed on this matter.

Thanks very much to those of you who were able to attend today's meeting. It was a great conversation that, I think, substantiated how important this initiative is for us. Cheers,

Dean

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