

From [Dean Saitta <dsaitta@du.edu>](mailto:dsaitta@du.edu)  
Sent Sunday, November 2, 2008 1:33 am  
To [Laura Connolly <lsconno@yahoo.com>](mailto:lsconno@yahoo.com)  
Subject Conference Report

Hi Laura—

Here's my message to the conference. Thanks for conveying it. You may send all or parts by email if you wish. But certainly please thank everyone for their confidence in me (as a relative unknown!) to be co-president of the state conference. I'm looking forward to working with you, and serving them!

Now for the report from DU. I'm not sure if anyone from our chapter will be at the meeting in my place, although I urged our members to attend.

1. A more coherent, explicit Faculty Grievance Policy drafted by our chapter and revised in light of feedback from the academic deans is currently in the hands of the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee. It will go forward from there. This is the 9th revision, so hopefully we are very close to getting ratification by all relevant parties.

2. We are dealing with an effort by one 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. As you know, treating collegiality as a separate evaluation category is very much at odds with AAUP policy principles and can easily lend itself to abuse. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (of which I am a member by virtue of being immediate past-president of the Senate) has discussed the issue. The Senate President has taken our concerns up with the Provost, who claims that this is something the faculty in the unit wanted. We are skeptical of that claim (it may be that the dean is misrepresenting his faculty's wishes), so we are inquiring with faculty in the unit.

3. Our 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 received some mixed messages. So, we're looking to have a follow-up conversation with them early in 2009.

4. We did some good service last spring in vetting the candidacy of one of our newly hired deans. She was hired from Tulane University, and there was a question about her role in post-Katrina reconstruction at that institution. We were helpful to the search committee in this regard. I also recently

helped the AAUP chapter president at another university vet an applicant from DU for a dean's position at her university.

In short, I think we are doing some useful things. However, I still worry about chapter sustainability. I mentioned to our group that I would likely become co-president of the state conference, and that I would really like a replacement as chapter president. So far there has been no volunteer. I hope to settle the succession issue in January when I'm back in the fold!

Cheers,  
Dean

Dean J. Saitta  
Professor, Department of Anthropology  
President, DU Chapter AAUP  
University of Denver  
Sturm Hall 146-S  
2000 East Asbury Street  
Denver, CO 80208  
Phone: 303-871-2680  
Fax: 303-871-2437  
Web: <http://portfolio.du.edu/dsaitta>