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Sent	Thursday, June 11, 2009 8:14 am
To	AAUP Chapter
Bcc	
Subject	AAUP Update

Dear All,

I hope that your academic years ended successfully and that you are well on the way to summer recovery. Here's an update on state and campus AAUP activities.

Good news and bad news on the state scene. Good news is from Metro State, where a judge has ruled in favor of Metro faculty (backed by the national AAUP) in a brouhaha over Governing Board-imposed changes (especially affecting tenure) to the Metro faculty handbook. Story is at:  
<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/06/08/metro>

Bad news is that one of my colleagues on the State AAUP Executive Committee has just this week been dismissed from her long-time adjunct teaching duties at a local community college. This happens at exactly the time that she was starting to use her new involvement with the state AAUP to mobilize adjunct faculty in the cause of improving pay and working conditions. Very suspicious. We're seeking pro bono legal help as we speak.

On the DU scene, concerns continue to percolate in various units about questionable treatment of tenure-line faculty and "adequate consideration" in P&T review, micromanagement of departments by deans, and faculty enfranchisement in administrative searches. I helped steer one faculty member on campus to a law firm for help dealing with a tenure revocation case (the state AAUP is very helpful with this sort of thing). The recently completed General Education Review exercise was not—in my opinion as a critic of both the process and the outcome—a particularly shining example of how such efforts might best respect faculty governance of curriculum and principles of academic freedom.

The Faculty Grievance Policy discussions continue, now with a recently-formed (by the Provost) policy committee comprised of faculty members Saitta, McCubbrey, Hall-Ellis, and Chip Reichardt, and deans McCall, Farer, Juarez, and Buirski. Dick Gartrell (HR) and Paul Chan (Counsel) also attend. We've had a couple of meetings to attempt consensus. We have one more meeting scheduled for June 22. The outcome still hangs in the balance, but we're hopeful that reason and generosity of spirit will prevail and that we'll finally have an explicit policy for the new academic year.

Given these developments—including, in particular, uncertainty expressed by deans about the meaning of shared governance and academic freedom—I've substantially overhauled the "AAUP at DU" Portfolio site to better serve the educational cause. There are now individual pages dedicated to--you guessed it-- "Governance" and "Academic Freedom." I've added a new "State AAUP" page that documents activity on that front. The "DU Chapter" page has also been substantially revised to better document our history, activities, and initiatives. There is no longer a "Members Only" page, because the idea is to show our entire faculty that we actually try to accomplish some things on their behalf and for the faculty franchise generally. The

portfolio site is at: <http://portfolio.du.edu/aaup>

Finally, I've asked the Faculty Senate president to see that the AAUP chapter president is included in orientation activities for new faculty in the fall. It's my impression that new faculty could also stand some educatin' about the principles to which AAUP is committed.

That's the latest. Any questions or concerns, give a shout. Cheers,  
dean

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