

DATE: 2 May 2011

TO: Chancellor Coombe

FR: Dean Saitta, AAUP Chapter President, on behalf of the 33 members of the DU Chapter

CC: Provost Kvistad

The recent decision to radically modify the Penrose Library/Academic Commons book storage plan failed to respect the faculty's right to be consulted on a significant matter relating to the academic enterprise. This is a bedrock principle that is honored by any institution that is truly committed to the principle of shared governance. Although we have received assurances that faculty most affected by the Library changes will be consulted on future planning we have no confidence that we won't be end-run again, and pacified by similar assurances, when the administration and/or Board believes that it needs to act quickly on matters that affect academic life. Because this decision disrespected faculty experience and expertise it has eroded the trust that we place in our leaders. If the faculty is recognized as "world-class" by the administration and the Board, then we should be consulted on any decision having significant academic import. This mutual respect is the foundation for a strong system of shared governance.