

NEWSLETTER

University of Iowa Chapter - AAUP

Oct. 5, 2004

Lois Cox, Newsletter Editor

Volume 3, Number 1

The Executive Committee will hold its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 25, 2004 in Room 137 Schaeffer Hall. Members are welcome to attend Executive Committee meetings. If you would like to become a member of the Executive Committee, please contact President Peter Hansen at peter-j-hansen@uiowa.edu

Message from the President

The opening paragraph of "The Role of Faculty in the Governance of College Athletics" (1989) - taken from my AAUP Redbook - states: "College athletics in this country is in continuing crisis. Even after several years of proposals and discussions of reform, the gains achieved are quite modest."

Recently a concerned AAUP member sent me an article titled "UI Awards 'Participation Credit' to Athletes" that he found on the UI website's National News Highlights page, <http://www.uiowa.edu/~ournews/2004/august/hitsaugust04.html>. The complete WP article cited is located at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A33987-2004Aug25.html>.

The article includes the following paragraph: "University of Iowa records show 43 Hawkeye football players were enrolled in its football class last fall, and 32 are enrolled this semester. The course instructor is Bill Dervich, the Hawkeyes' director of football operations and a former strength and conditioning coach. Iowa officials said 189 student-athletes were enrolled in classes for all sports last fall semester, and 186 received 'satisfactory' marks. Two student-athletes withdrew from the courses and one failed. During spring semester this year, all 83 students enrolled in the sports classes received passing grades. Iowa allows its student-athletes to repeat the participation courses once."

It would appear to me that perhaps the University of Iowa is not immune to the "continuing crisis."

Large collegiate athletic enterprises are often justified by claims that they result in higher enrollments and increased alumni giving, but a recently released report by the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics questions these claims. The report, "Challenging the Myth: A Review of the Links Among College Athletic Success, Student Quality, and Donations" contradicts the view that winning basketball and football programs indirectly benefit universities as a whole.

On October 12th, at 2:00 pm, Myles Brand, NCAA president, will speak in the Terrace Room of the IMU. Best known for being the man who fired Bobby Knight - after Knight violated Brand's zero tolerance policy - it should be interesting to hear how Brand proposes to change the NCAA and ultimately intercollegiate athletics.

Peter Hansen

UI to Host AAUP Fall Iowa Conference

The University of Iowa chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) will host the AAUP Fall Iowa Conference meeting on Saturday morning, October 9, 2004, in the Iowa Room of the Iowa Memorial Union.

Following registration and refreshments beginning at 9:00 am, national AAUP President Jane Buck, PhD, will speak at 9:30 am on "The Use and Abuse of Contingent Faculty."

At 10:15 am, a panel will discuss related issues and respond to comments and questions from the audience. Panelists include:

- * Susan R. Johnson, MD, Professor and Director of the Carver College of Medicine's Collegiate Productivity Consulting Service
- * Lon D. Moeller, Clinical Associate Professor and UI Co-Ombudsperson
- * Peter J. Hansen, Visiting Assistant Professor and UI AAUP Chapter President
- * Patrick B. Oray, Graduate Assistant and President of the UI's Campaign to Organize Graduate Students (COGS)

A brief Iowa Conference business meeting will follow at 11:30 am, with adjournment no later than noon.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

Direct all questions to Peter Hansen at 335-1313, or <peter-j-hansen@uiowa.edu>.

Revisions to Sexual Harassment Policy

At its first meeting of the fall semester, on Sept. 27, the Executive Committee met with Charlotte Westerhaus, Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity and Chairperson of the Dispute Resolution Committee, and Marcus Mills, Office of the General Council, to discuss proposed revisions to the university's Sexual Harassment Policy. Of particular concern were several proposals relating to which faculty members have "mandatory reporting" duties under the policy, and under what circumstances those duties come into play. AAUP members expressed concerns both as to the scope of those duties and their possible effects on student confidences, and about educating faculty members regarding the duties. After a cordial and mutually informative discussion, Ms. Westerhaus and Mr. Mills agreed to share AAUP concerns with other members of the Dispute Resolution Committee.

New Faculty Reception

AAUP will host its annual reception for new faculty members on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2004 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. in the North Room of IMU. Last year's event was quite successful - a pleasant time for "veteran" faculty members to meet and talk with new colleagues over wine and hors d'oeuvres. Please inform new colleagues of this event and urge them to watch for invitations closer to the time. This reception and the spring Promotion and Tenure Symposium are AAUP's primary opportunities to be of service to junior colleagues and to invite them to become active in AAUP.

AAUP Dues Reduction for New Members

In recent years, national AAUP policy has been to welcome new members by offering them a dues reduction of 50% during the first year of membership. In an effort to retain these new members and to attract more, the Iowa chapter has chosen to subsidize new members' dues to the same extent for an additional two years, so that new members may expect to pay only 50% of the announced rate of dues for the first three years of their memberships. If you or your colleagues are eligible for this rate, please contact the chapter treasurer, Kathy Clark, at mary-clark@uiowa.edu

Committee A

Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure exists to provide advice and assistance to members of the university community, both faculty and staff, who

encounter substantive or procedural unfairness in connection with their employment. If you could benefit from Committee A's advice, or if you know someone who could, the person to contact is committee chairperson Ekhard Ziegler at ekhard-ziegler@uiowa.edu

If you know of university colleagues who would like to join AAUP, membership information is available on the AAUP link on the Faculty Senate webpage through the university's website. Alternatively, you may reply to this e-mail and I will forward membership forms to you.

Best wishes for the fall!
Lois Cox