

NEWSLETTER

University of Iowa Chapter - AAUP

March 11, 2005

Lois Cox, Newsletter Editor

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The Executive Committee will hold its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2005 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

A firestorm of protests has erupted over the public remarks of Professor Ward Churchill of the University of Colorado at Boulder. Churchill used the term "little Eichmanns" to characterize some of the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center.

In his defense, Churchill has written, "I am not a 'defender' of the September 11 attacks, but simply pointing out that if U.S. foreign policy results in massive death and destruction abroad, we cannot feign innocence when some of that destruction is returned." And also, "I have never characterized all the September 11 victims as 'Nazis.' What I said was that the 'technocrats of empire' working in the World Trade Center were the equivalent of 'little Eichmanns.'"

Not surprisingly, many Americans have been deeply offended by Churchill's remarks and are calling for him to be sacked. Never, however, is the importance of academic freedom of greater consequence than when defending the most unpopular views.

The AAUP has posted on its website a statement on the Professor Ward Churchill controversy (<http://www.aaup.org/newsroom/Newsitems/churchill.htm>) that concludes by saying, "The critical test of academic freedom is its capacity to meet even the most painful and offending statements. A college or university campus is, of all places in our society, the most appropriate forum for the widest range of viewpoints."

I heartily agree.

Peter Hansen

Executive Committee Resolution

On Tuesday, March 8, 2005, the Executive Committee adopted the resolution replicated in full below, and forwarded it to the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado.

It is hereby RESOLVED that, academic freedom being a core value of higher education, particularly public higher education, that freedom of inquiry and open debate are central to academic freedom, that Prof. Ward Churchill's radical critique of the events of September 11, 2001 falls within the scope of academic freedom, and that the ongoing investigation into Prof. Churchill's scholarship and credentials, as well as the personal vilification of him and death threats made against him, were prompted by his voicing that radical critique, the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS urges the University of Colorado to desist from any actions that may adversely affect Prof. Churchill's tenured status on the basis of his critique, to refrain from scrutinizing his employment in any ways different from those applied to other tenured faculty members, and to re-affirm its commitment to academic freedom, tenure, shared governance, and due process.

On Wednesday, March 9, a virtually identical resolution was adopted and forwarded to the University of Colorado Board of Regents by Faculty Senate.

Promotion and Tenure Symposium

This year's Promotion and Tenure Symposium will be held on Wednesday, April 6 from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. in W401, Pappajohn Business Building. The evening will begin with coffee and refreshments at 6:30 and the formal program will begin at 7:00.

As in past years, this year's event is co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Faculty Senate, and AAUP. A panel of speakers will address procedural and substantive aspects of the promotion and tenure process. We are fortunate to have four speakers, each of whom has long experience with promotion and tenure issues. Their experiences are different, though complementary, and it is the hope of the sponsors that those attending will leave the symposium with a better understanding of the process and useful advice on how to negotiate it. The speakers are Prof. David Baldus, College of Law; Associate Provost Lee Anna Clark, Office of the Provost; Prof. Dorothy Johnson, DEO, Department of Art and Art History; and Prof. Lon Moeller, College of Business, Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center, and University Ombudsperson. Each will speak for approximately ten minutes and then panel members will respond to questions from the audience.

All faculty members, DEOs, and administrators are welcome to attend this symposium. Experience has shown that most of those in attendance are pre-tenure and that the symposium is most useful to faculty members at that stage of their careers. No RSVP is

necessary. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Lois Cox, College of Law, at 335-9062 or lois-cox@uiowa.edu

Proposed Workshop on Promotion to Full Professor

The Executive Committee is currently considering a proposal that AAUP sponsor a workshop on promotion to full professor, comparable to the annual symposium on promotion and tenure described above. Administrators have suggested that AAUP sponsor such a workshop, noting that several faculty colleagues have experienced difficulties with promotion to full professor in recent years. If you have views as to whether or not it would be helpful to offer a promotion workshop, or ideas as to how such a workshop might be structured, please contact a member of the Executive Committee or reply to this newsletter. All input from members will be appreciated.

Discussion of COGS Negotiations

At its last several meetings, the Executive Committee has discussed the difficulties experienced by some faculty members whose research is supported by grant funding and who may find themselves caught between conflicting contractual obligations. Specifically, these colleagues are bound, on the one hand, to work with and compensate graduate students in compliance with the COGS contract, and, on the other, to abide by the terms of their grants which may regulate compensation, dictate the length of time the grant is to cover, or impose limits on the payment of certain expenses such as tuition. Executive Committee members have no wish to interfere with collective bargaining rights, which they support fully. However, discussion has focused on ways in which the university administration might respond to these problems so that faculty members may pursue their research and teaching commitments without violating contractual duties. Discussions of this issue will continue at the April meeting.

Annual Meeting

The University of Iowa Chapter of AAUP will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 7, 2005 in the State Room of the Iowa Memorial Union. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. with coffee and breakfast pastries. The business meeting will begin at 10:30 and the keynote address at 11:00. The meeting will conclude at noon. This year, AAUP is honored to welcome Provost Michael Hogan as our featured speaker. We hope for a good turnout of AAUP members. Please join us if you can.

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.

Enjoy Spring Break!
Lois Cox