

NEWSLETTER

University of Iowa Chapter - AAUP

December 12, 2005

Lois Cox, Newsletter Editor

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The Executive Committee will hold its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2006 in room 137 Schaeffer Hall. Members are always 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

In October, several of us on the Iowa Chapter Executive Committee attended the Fall Meeting of the Iowa Conference of the AAUP at Cornell College. The keynote address, presented by Larry Gerber of Auburn University, was titled How Does Governance Work Fit into a Faculty Members Busy Schedule? A number of his remarks bear repeating.

Successful shared governance requires,

- That a sizable fraction of the faculty be actively involved in governance. A small part of the faculty should not, year after year, serve as faculty representatives.
- That involvement in governance be supported and rewarded (e.g., release time, included in faculty evaluations, staff support, and sabbatical leaves following periods of heavy commitment).
- That new faculty members be *socialized* to accept faculty citizenship responsibilities.

Gerber cautioned that the corporate governance model, which may include faculty on administrative task forces and committees, is not shared governance. Faculty committees and representative bodies should not be chaired by administrators.

Gerber concluded his remarks by reminding us that the American academy rose to supremacy at the very time that faculty (shared) governance rose to its highest level.

Peter Hansen

AAUP Collaborates with other Faculty Governance Groups

During the fall semester, chapter representatives met with representatives of several other faculty governance groups to share ideas and concerns. Committee A members met with members of the Faculty Assembly Revitalization Committee to discuss ways to improve shared governance in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Also, Professor Steve Collins, chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty Policies and Compensation, met with the Executive Committee to discuss his committee's deliberations on possible changes to the university's policy on post-tenure review. The Executive Committee welcomes these and other opportunities to collaborate with other groups to try to ensure broad-ranging consideration of important governance issues.

Spring Workshops

The Executive Committee has decided to follow up on suggestions made by the Office of the Ombudsperson and Prof. LeeAnna Clark, former Associate Provost for Faculty, that we expand our annual Promotion and Tenure Symposium into two separate workshops, one focused on the tenure process, and the other focused on achieving promotion to full professor. In the past, the symposium has purported to cover both topics, but in reality has addressed the tenure process almost exclusively. The tentative plan is to sponsor two workshops, both in April 2006, and to try to develop a promotion presentation that will be useful to tenured faculty members considering applying for promotion in the various colleges. This will be a challenge. If members have suggestions regarding speakers, materials for distribution to attendees, or other sources of information, please send them to ruth-wachtel@uiowa.edu or lois-cox@uiowa.edu

AAUP Dues Reduction for New Members

In recent years, national AAUP policy has been to welcome all new members by offering them a dues reduction. New members who are untenured pay only 50% of the announced rate during the first year of membership, and may qualify for up to an additional three years of reduced dues at the same rate. Others receive a dues reduction of 50% during their first year of membership. In an effort to retain new members and to attract more, the Iowa chapter has chosen to subsidize by 50% the dues of all new members, tenured and untenured, for a total of three years. If you or your colleagues may be eligible for this reduced rate, pursuant to either national AAUP policy or local chapter policy, 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 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 colleagues who would like to join AAUP, membership information is available at our chapter's website <http://www.uiowa.edu/~aaupweb/>

or at 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. The bleak budgetary situation the university is experiencing during this academic year is not new to us. But it means that shared governance is as important now as it has ever been. Please consider becoming more active in AAUP work. And please encourage your colleagues to join us now.

Enjoy the holidays!

Lois Cox