Minutes – Meeting of AAUP Chapter of UNC Chapel Hill – November 30, 2007

Present: Carl Ernst, Andrew Perrin, Ed Halloran, William Race, Susan Bickford

The meeting started at 3 p.m. in GEC 2008.

Items for the agenda

1. Minutes from the October 30 meeting were briefly discussed and approved by acclamation.

2. Contingent Faculty Issues. Carl reported on an inquiry from Suzanne Gulledge (School of Education) on behalf of the Fixed Term Committee, requesting that a representative from AAUP attends the committee’s meeting on January 25 to acquaint them with AAUP resources on this issue (generally termed “contingent faculty” in AAUP documents). It was agreed that this was an excellent example of the way in which AAUP studies and policy statements can be made available in a timely and effective fashion for relevant UNC decision-making bodies. Carl has agreed to attend that meeting to represent AAUP positions.

3. Dues and Membership. In the August 31, 2007, meeting, the chapter had voted to institute annual dues of $10 for all members, with a waiver for graduate students and contingent faculty. A communication was sent to AAUP requesting that this figure be added to the integrated dues annually requested of every member. A document has been received from AAUP (attached to these minutes) suggesting that chapters should rethink the issue of chapter dues, in part with a view to increasing participation and focusing on issues relevant to members and potential members.

Data currently supplied by the state AAUP organization indicates 54 active members at UNC-Chapel Hill (somewhat less than expected), out of about 350 in the state as a whole. Of these, 39 are full-time faculty members, one is a graduate student, three are part-time faculty, and 11 are retired.

Discussion followed on ways to increase membership, and it was resolved to schedule a meeting, probably a Tuesday or Wednesday in the first week in February, as a reception (preferably at the new Faculty Commons) to which faculty members will be invited. This would also be an occasion for brainstorming on activities that would be of importance to the membership; present members will be asked to suggest activities that would need to be supported by dues (such as advertising, speaker fees, etc.; see the attachment for other suggestions). Funding for refreshments at this reception can be obtained from the state organization.

4. Other Topics. Other items briefly raised include the following:

- Turning chapter resolutions into press releases that can be sent to local journalists at newspapers in the region;
- Inviting Bill Friday to the February 2008 event, asking him to comment on, for example, salary raises for football coaches.
- The puzzle of why other committees besides the Exigency Committee (such as the Committee on the Status of Women) never meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.
Appendix: AAUP Memo

Establishing Chapter Dues

First, call a chapter meeting to discuss dues. The executive committee should prepare for the meeting by listing all of the things they would like to do as a chapter, and doing a little research to come up with estimated costs of each. [Organizing tip: include things that don’t cost a cent, as a way of getting folks to commit to doing them.] You might get some volunteers out of this, too, especially if you can come up with trade-offs—e.g., volunteers to distribute newsletters in dept mailboxes = FREE vs. stamps to mail newsletters to home addresses = $__. Examples from other chapters include:

- Newsletter (cost depends on how many pages, how many issues/semester, and how it will be delivered)
- Website (costs may include hosting fees, domain name registration, and technical support)
- Posters/flyers around campus
- Buying Redbooks for key members of the administration (take advantage of the member/bulk discount)
- A regular brown-bag lunch to discuss an AAUP policy statement (might be free, or the chapter might provide some refreshments; cost depends on frequency and estimated crowd)
- Wine & cheese reception after a talk or before a chapter meeting
- Hosting a talk by an outside speaker (costs may include advertising, room rental, and an honorarium)
- Chapter-sponsored trip to lobby state government (costs may include reimbursing drivers for gas, renting a van, photocopying)
- Placing an ad in the local paper
- Legal defense fund
- Help fund chapter delegate’s attendance at AAUP’s annual meeting
- Help send activists to the Summer Institute

At the meeting, encourage members to add to the list (even if they don’t bring a cost-estimate with them). The goal is to end the meeting with a list of projects that the whole chapter is committed to undertaking with full funding and support. [In other words, don’t expect the membership to just sign off on whatever the executive committee proposes; if there are important items on your list, be prepared to articulate why it is important for the chapter to take them on. Otherwise the executive committee is likely to be stuck doing all the work themselves.]

The next phase of the meeting is figuring out how much money the chapter needs to collect annually (i.e. agreeing on a list of projects and adding up the costs) and a reasonable projection of how many members will share those costs. Any data you have on attendance at meetings, the success of past efforts to collect funds, the number of members on campus, etc. will be useful. I would try to avoid being overly pessimistic in coming up with this number—if it’s important to you, give your colleagues the benefit of the doubt that it will be important to them, too.

Reality check: divide the proposed annual chapter budget by the projected number of chapter dues payers. Are you comfortable asking your colleagues for that much, on top of current state & national AAUP dues? If necessary, go back and prioritize the list of projects. How much would chapter dues have to be to only fund the top three projects? It is much better to start with modest plans and expand as the chapter grows, than to push for too much, too soon.
Once you have agreed on a dollar amount, ask for one or two volunteers to develop a chapter dues form. The form should include the list of projects the chapter will undertake with the money collected, as well as text along these lines: “Eligibility for membership in this chapter shall extend to all current and retired faculty members and graduate students at [your institution] who are national members of the American Association of University Professors.” [This is to reiterate what your chapter bylaws say, namely that you can’t join the chapter without joining the national organization.]

Note: It is up to you whether or not to require payment of chapter dues in order to be a member of the chapter, vote, run for office, etc. If your chapter bylaws follow the template provided by the national office, there will be an article on dues laying out the procedure for establishing chapter dues. Make sure that you follow your bylaws in implementing this or any other substantive change.

### Collecting Chapter Dues

When first establishing chapter dues, you are going to want to make the case to your colleagues that this will be money well spent. Publishing the minutes of the meeting described above is a good way to do that. It is also important to talk with your colleagues face-to-face, delivering the new chapter dues form and inviting them to contribute. [Ideally, you should ask everyone who attends the dues meeting to commit to spreading the word among AAUP members in their circle—don’t let all the work fall on the executive committee!]

The integrated dues program provides a mechanism whereby the national AAUP office collects dues on behalf of chapters or conferences. The program offers the convenience of having the national office bill members for chapter and conference dues along with national dues on itemized member renewal invoices. You can find information about this program at the AAUP website: http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/involved/startchapter/integrated-dues.htm.

The benefit of using the integrated dues program is obvious: you don’t have to ask your colleagues for the money. However, the downside should also be obvious: you don’t get to ask your colleagues for the money. The integrated dues program is voluntary for members, so they may elect not to pay chapter dues as part of their national membership renewal. If you don’t make the case for supporting the chapter, your dues income is likely to be lower, leaving you with fewer resources to accomplish your goals. Fortunately, you don’t have to choose one path or the other—if you enroll in the integrated dues program, you should still make an effort to collect chapter dues in face-to-face conversations.

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1 *from the sample chapter bylaws—Article V: Dues*

The chapter may establish chapter dues. Any chapter dues will be established by a secret ballot vote conducted among voting chapter members. The vote may be conducted either by mail ballot or, after reasonable notice, at a regular or special membership meeting. Chapter members must pay current AAUP dues, any mandatory conference dues, and chapter dues.