Minutes – AAUP UNC-Chapel Hil Chapter – August 31, 2007

Present: Altha Cravey, Carl Ernst (Presiding), Frank Dominguez, Connie Eble, Ed Halloran, Don Nonini, Jerry Unks, Steve Wing

Carl opened the meeting at 3:02 p.m. The minutes from the April 11 meeting were approved. Frank noted that the UNC data on contingent faculty, which had been discussed at the previous meeting, are not broken down by department.

1. Housekeeping items: the next meetings of the chapter are set for Oct. 12 and Nov. 30, room to be announced. If future meetings are to be held in the GEC, Carl will look into the possibility of parking nearby.

2. Carl reported on proposed changes to the UNC system procedures for promotion and tenure, which have been addressed by a committee charged with streamlining procedures; it has added to its charge by also proposing revisions to post-tenure review. The Faculty Executive Committee (to which Carl was elected this summer) has objected to recommendations made by this committee, and a critical review of these proposals by AAUP national headquarters (thanks to Glenn Howze) was extremely helpful in focusing the FEC’s attention on the weaknesses in the recommendations. Addendum: the Faculty Council was scheduled to propose on Sept. 14 a delay in the consideration of these recommendations, to permit objections to be fully aired.

3. The other major topic was the attempt of the Employee Forum to publish an account of efforts to legalize collective bargaining by public employees in a recent supplement to the University Gazette, which was refused by the Gazette’s editors. Carl wrote a letter to the Gazette on behalf of our chapter, urging attention to the collective bargaining issue, which we have supported in a resolution, voted in April; he deliberately did not address the censorship question, which the Employee Forum wishes to concentrate upon, because there is not yet a consensus on this point in the Chapter. A reply was received from the Gazette stating the reasons for their refusal to publish the article. Steve Wing is planning to be present at the Sept. 8 meeting of the state AAUP organization, where the issue of censorship will be discussed further, and will report back.

4. Ed discussed the 2001 agreement between AAUP and Faculty Council, according to which the FC chair would be a member of AAUP and keep at hand documents such as the AAUP red book. Also, a representative from AAUP is accepted by FC as a permanent observer. This agreement has been followed in practice, with Ed as the current observer. Since he has now been elected to FC, a substitute is needed, and he will seek a replacement to be named soon. After discussion of possible relationships between AAUP and FC (e.g., AAUP presence on FC, formation of a shadow FC, or a call for adherence to AAUP principles), it was agreed that Carl would ask Faculty Governance staff person Anne Whisnant to circulate to FC committee chairs references to online AAUP documents.

5. Steve Wing reported on the Gillings gift to the School of Public Health ($50M), which is to result in a naming of the Dennis and Joan Gillings School of Global Public Health; he noted that several other universities are renaming their schools of public health after donors, who are sometimes represented on advisory boards. Concern was expressed over gifts doled out to universities over time, dependent on whether donors are satisfied with
funded operations. This can lead to demands for curricular objectives not identified by faculty planning, such as developing business skills. Information on one of the Gillings programs, the Carolina Public Health Solutions program, is available at http://www.sph.unc.edu/accelerate/. Comparisons were made with the proposed Pope Foundation gift for western civilization, which drew objections from the faculty. It was agreed that recently formulated UNC policies on gifts (listed on the Provost’s website at http://provost.unc.edu/policies/pdfs/curricgifts) should be consulted and followed in such instances.

6. Carl mentioned that the topics of distance education and job training models of university education are evidently being discussed by the Board of Trustees, and that there will be opportunities to educate trustees about faculty positions on these issues.

7. A resolution was proposed and unanimously approved to add $10 in chapter dues to the annual dues owed by each local member of AAUP, with waivers for graduate students and contingent faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Ernst