Minutes
AAUP UNC-CH Chapter – Meeting of April 7, 2009

Present: Altha Cravey, Frank Dominguez, Mark Driscoll, Carl Ernst (Chair), Lauren Leve, Don Nonini, Cat Warren (NCSU/NC-AUP), DTH reporter

Start time: 5:03 p.m.

Carl opened the meeting. Minutes from last meeting were approved unanimously. Carl reported his recent work on a joint report on tenure at UNC. Carl in his letter (called for at last meeting) to Chancellor Thorp described concerns by faculty with the use of the Bain consultants to study the university. Chancellor Thorp said last week he did not anticipate laying off tenured or tenure-track faculty, but the status of temporary faculty is unclear. The Chancellor said that the plans for the Bain consultancy were set a long time ago. Frank: what about the Faculty Exigency Committee? Carl: this committee has never met since its founding. Carl went to the Committee’s web site and statement of procedures, to acquaint those present with it.

Altha: AAUP needs to request that the administration follow its own rules for “reduction in force.” (RIF) with non-faculty employees. Altha reported her recent visit to the Employee Forum, where large numbers of layoffs are being reported. Cat: this is also happening to faculty elsewhere in the UNC system; she reported on 3 asst profs in the College of Life Sciences at NCSU who were told they were not receiving funding for their labs for next year, and were expected to leave before their 3rd year review. Some other term lecturers have been laid off informally with little notice or chance for appeal. There is therefore an important need to track such layoffs of faculty. Don proposed that we ask the Chancellor to institute a timely and accurate reporting procedure University-wide of the layoffs as and when they take place. Cat suggested this be extended to all campuses UNC-system wide. She also pointed to the exemplary reporting of Lynn Brady, UNC Greensboro Chancellor.

[Note: in a discussion with the Faculty Executive Committee, the Provost drew attention to the following HR websites:
For information on SPA layoff issues, see the SPA layoff policy at http://hr.unc.edu/Data/SPA/recruitment/layoff, and work in consultation with your department's assigned Employment and Staffing specialist in the Office of Human Resources (843-2300). For EPA Non-Faculty end-of-appointment matters, see http://hr.unc.edu/epanf/epa-nf-pol/apt-proc/end_appointment, and consult with the EPA Non-Faculty HR office in OHR (962-2897). She also reported that UNC staff members are working on a report on the number and categories of layoffs attributable to budget reductions.]

Discussion ensued.

Cat mentioned that the NC Assembly is going to grant President Bowles flexibility to institute a furlough policy system-wide. This also needs to be addressed.

Carl suggested we invite a representative of the Employees Forum to keep us informed about
reductions in force are currently affecting the non-faculty employees.

Turning to the election of new chapter officers, there was an insufficient number of people to hold an election and it was decided to undertake an email election.

Carl stated we need a meeting in the next couple of weeks, where someone from the Employees Forum can be present, and then a letter to the Chancellor can be written. Carl will also speak to the Faculty Executive Committee about this issue of RIF procedures next week relaying our concerns regarding reporting of layoffs and reductions in force.

Each of those present will contact potential officers of the AAUP; followed by a formal solicitation via email; followed by an email ballot being sent out.

Cat will send us a copy of her letter to UNC System President Erskine Bowles for our review.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Don Nonini, Secretary and scribe