

# AAUP concerned with more than just faculty salaries

Professor Boohar's disinterested commitment to students and his relentless professional integrity lends urgency to his letter (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 21).

I urge Professor Boohar and others worried about a too-narrow focusing of collective bargaining issues to look at the AAUP's record here at UNL, nationwide, and at UNO.

Locally, AAUP has been active on this campus for about 60 years. Its papers have been used as foundations for our most important governance documents, its members have been

instrumental in writing those materials and monitoring their implementation. Its publications form the basis of the senate committee's annual faculty study report.

## Guest Opinion

Even in the present campaign, AAUP flyers have addressed many issues. The first dealt with the role of the Faculty Senate. Only one or two flyers focus on compensation. Even the one Professor Boohar alludes to goes beyond compensation when it notes that salary levels often reveal institutional attitudes toward the faculty more generally. Surely the 16 percent gap between UNL faculty salaries and those of the mean of other schools in our category is not unrelated to the other aspects of faculty status Professor Boohar so vigorously describes. I do not believe AAUP's local record supports Professor Boohar's fears.

Nationally, for over 70 years AAUP has generated, implemented, and defended the definitive papers of the academic profession on such issues as academic freedom, tenure, due process, participation in governance by faculty and students, ethic, student rights and freedoms, etc. It also publishes each year the best information on the economic state of the profession. Its statement on collective bargaining commits local chapters given representative status as collective bargaining agents to protect and pro-

note the institutional welfare in all these areas. Such a record supports rather than threatens Professor Boohar's preferred focus of attention. Finally, at UNO I see the record here is more complicated than does Professor Boohar. In any event it should be clear that the UNO AAUP chapter did not insist upon only negotiating financial issues; quite the reverse, it offered to settle for less than was finally granted it and has regularly made contract proposals on a wide range of governance issues. It should be clear, too, that neither the Commission of Industrial Relations nor the regents have shut the door on a fuller range of bargaining. In sum, I do not believe the record supports the contention that AAUP on this campus, in this university system or in the academy at large is likely to bargain on remuneration first, last and only.

My own experience suggests that the senate might well use the help that would come from bargained agreements. Such agreements increase the possibility that initiatives can be sustained and agreements maintained more effectively. Too often what the senate has regarded in the past as the initiation of coherent policy has been discovered in retrospect to have been merely a particular concession. Such confusions are, if not impossible, at least not sustainable under a contract. With any agent, the membership sets the priorities; contracts reflect fundamental positions of each side. I do not expect the UNL AAUP as this faculty's agent would set a ruinous salary scale as its only priority, although salaries will surely rank high as an issue while our scale remains so low.

My only belief is that UNL would profit from increased mutuality, especially between those who bear the academic responsibility and those who bear the political and fiscal responsibility for the campus. I support collective bargaining because I see no great promise of that increased mutuality without it.

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## Complaints, complaints...

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6. She dumped me. Terrible, now I look like Dr. Joyce Brothers. What do you want me to do? Should I pat you on the shoulder and tell you it will be all right? Or should I tell you you're better off without her? Why don't you talk to her, and if you two can't work things out, try to accept it. I hate wimps (male or female) that chase after someone who has told them to get lost.

7. And my least favorite one of all, especially when I'm eating lunch with someone, This food is awful. If you don't like it, take it back. If you don't have the nerve or the ambition to do that, shut up and eat it.

There, I'm through complaining about your complaints. Now that you know how your com-

plaints sound, maybe you'll keep them to yourself. I've got my own problems.

One more thing before I quit complaining. If you order a pizza with someone, please don't argue about what kind to get. This is a pet peeve of mine. Any place in town will make a half-and-half

(pepperoni on one half and sausage on the other, for example) at no extra cost. I've seen people get mad at each other and cancel the order because they couldn't decide which kind to get. They are obviously under too much strain. Watch out for those pretty red and white station wagons.

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