As announced, the ODU chapter of the AAUP held a general meeting on Tuesday, October 12 2004. Three members of the local chapter attended: Dr. Janet Bing, Dr. Carl Whithaus (president) and Dr. Sebastian Kuhn (vice president).

The main item of discussion was the future of our chapter. As is obvious from the small number of people attending, we are in real danger of relapsing into a “dormant state”. The present membership of the National AAUP at ODU is 14 people, down from a peak of 23. One reason for these small numbers may be the rather steep annual dues for national membership. We discussed the possibility of having a “local member status” which can be attained simply by declaration, without having to pay national AAUP dues. However, this would only help if we could increase our active membership significantly.

We are clearly at a crossroads: We had a very active AY 2002-2003, followed by an inactive AY 2003-2004. On the one hand, there are several serious and important issues that our chapter could work on (both through the Faculty Senate and directly):

- the proposed ODU strategic plan,
- the current system of having students evaluate teachers,
- the administration’s handling of merit and compression raises,
- the newPAGE course,
- the status of non-tenure track and contingent faculty,
- representation of the faculty on the ODU Board of Visitors, and the possibility of having a member of AAUP attend Board of Visitors’ meetings,
- participation in the AAUP Virginia chapter activities and meetings.

On the other hand, for our chapter to continue, we need new officers (the present slate has been in office for more than 2 years and wants to step down) and a reasonable number of active members who are willing to help organize, attend meetings and work on these issues.

Therefore, the three attending members agreed to put the following issues to a vote to go out on the current E-mail list. Please vote for one. Failure to vote will be counted as a vote for the second choice:

1. _____ I vote to continue to function as an active chapter and I am willing to do at least one of the following.
   a. Participate by attending meetings whether or not I pay national views
   b. Serve as an officer: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, representative to the Virginia AAUP, representative to contact other Tidewater colleges and universities.
      (Indicate one, if you are willing to serve: __________________)
   c. Actively recruit new members (yes/no)

2. _____ I vote to allow the chapter to go dormant, with a caretaker officer who will turn over the current available funds to a future officer, should the local AAUP become active again in the future. I am unwilling to participate as described in #1 above.