Objectives of the UD Chapter of The American Association of University Professors

A Statement of the Executive Board

September 26, 1989

In order to further its overall goal of improving higher education by defending the interests of faculty, the American Association of University Professors provides vital services on the national, state, and university levels. The important role of the AAUP in defending academic freedom and arguing for the interests of faculty at the national and state levels are well known. At the individual university level, the role of the AAUP differs greatly, depending on the unique conditions at specific campuses. At some universities, the AAUP chapter represents the faculty as a collective bargaining agent while at others, the chapter serves the less contentious role of an association to provide faculty an opportunity to share ideas of mutual concern and to express those concerns to the university community. Consequently, the Executive Board of the Dayton Chapter is issuing this statement of the objectives of the chapter in order to clarify what we see as our role in university life to faculty administration, students, and other interested parties.

The primary purpose of the UD Chapter is to contribute to the provision of a high quality education to students of the University of Dayton. Faculty are central to the success of this endeavor. A faculty whose vital interests are served are more likely to identify strongly with the educational mission and contribute to it. Consequently, the role of the chapter is to represent the interests of the faculty which in turn contributes to the success of the University’s educational mission.

We see the chapter as having a complementary relationship with the University administration in furthering educational quality. The history of the university and the chapter and the general composition of the faculty suggest that a chapter role that is antagonistic to the administration is not warranted. In general, we feel that the University administration has acted in a manner that is consistent with AAUP principles, such as academic freedom and due process, and we desire to be a constructive influence on the administration in furthering those AAUP principles which we see as contributing to the national stature of the university.

This constructive and supportive role for the Chapter is of course contingent on the maintenance of the present general state of amicable relations between the faculty and the administration. Should those conditions change, alternative roles for the Chapter would have to be considered.
In furthering its role as a constructive influence on the administration and the university community in general, we see one of the major tasks of the Chapter as providing information on major national and regional trends in higher education. The University of Dayton is emerging as a university of national stature and we plan to bring programs to the university which will broaden faculty and administrators and make them aware of major national trends which must be addressed by the university community. Examples of issues that might be addressed include: reforming the educational process to improve the quality of graduates and the status of women faculty.