

From: Henry Rogers
To: kurtb@uca.edu
Date: 8/29/2008 3:05 PM
Subject: Honors College

Kurt--

Jim Fowler sent me a copy of his letter to you about the Honors College issue. We have discussed it a good deal and are in pretty much complete agreement, so I see no need in repeating the points he made--and I probably couldn't express them so well anyway! I will only add the rather obvious comments that AAUP standards state that tenure is to be awarded in a discipline by one's peers in that discipline--said peers to be found--equally obviously--in a department. Therefore not awarding--or denying--tenure in any other fashion or by any other means simply violates AAUP guidelines. In short, there would no longer be any truly legitimate means of evaluation or meaningful standards. An Honors College English specialist would hardly be qualified to evaluate the tenure application of a History teacher. By extension, one might find tenure being conferred for any number of reasons other than those upon which it should be granted. The Honors College proposal both violates AAUP guidelines and undermines the integrity of the tenure process and ultimately the meaning of tenure itself.

I find it unsettling that, as Dr. Fowler points out, the proposal is more than a little misleading--to put the best face on it--when it claims to be "not unique." It is in fact very unique, not in a very favorable way--and I am confident that there are numerous good reasons--many of which Dr. Fowler and others have pointed out--why that is so.

Thanks again for all your very fine work.

Rusty