



Dear colleagues:

Some quick end-of-the-semester news and notes:

1. The rally!

BIG thanks to everyone who came out to the rally on Monday! It meant a lot to Cynthia, Whitney, Bruce, Jeremy, and Mike to see so many colleagues turn out and stand with them in solidarity. Your presence, your voices, and the [fantastic signs](#) you made sent a powerful message to the administration that the faculty is fully and firmly behind our team. Thank you!

If you weren't able to make it to the rally on Monday, not to worry! There will certainly be plenty of opportunities to participate in actions this summer, especially as the teams begin to take up economic articles beginning in May. We'll keep you posted on our team's progress at the table and on upcoming solidarity events.

Monday's event was streamed live, and the videos are now archived and available for viewing: [Click here for video of pre-rally preparations](#) and [here for video of the rally](#).

Also, we were thrilled to welcome 10 members of the WMU Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) on Monday! Their energy, smarts, and commitment to solidarity were on full display at the rally. They also got some great photos and video of the event, [available here](#). (And [here they are](#) working on their signs.) A huge thank-you to outgoing TAU President Kristie Bailey, President-elect Ian Anderson, lead organizer Nora Gimpel, and the whole TAU team. These wonderful people are some of the best news there is about the future of unions and collective action in higher education.

2. Bunsis slides on university finances now available.

The slides from the February 16 presentation on university finances by Dr. Howard Bunsis, professor of accounting at Eastern Michigan University and chair of the national AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress, are now available on the chapter blog. [Click here to view Howard's slides.](#)

3. Fourth Friday Happy Hour TODAY!

I hope everyone saw WMU-AAUP VP Carol Weideman's email invitation earlier today to the final Fourth Friday Happy Hour of the spring semester. We'll be at Arcadia Brewing Co. (701 E. Michigan Ave.) today at 5 p.m.

These events are always a good time, and as always, your first drink's on us if you're a dues-paying member. (If you choose soda over a beer, your first *two* drinks are on us.) Come on out this afternoon, take a break from your grading, and enjoy the company of faculty colleagues in a fun and family-friendly environment. See you there!

4. Stay connected -- and stay active -- this summer.

Our bargaining team, officers, and Exec Committee will continue to work this summer, so check your emails from us, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and the [WMU-AAUP blog](#) to get the latest info about progress at the bargaining table and our calls to action when they (inevitably) come.

On behalf of the officers and the indispensable staff of the WMU-AAUP, we wish you all the best for a smooth wrap-up to the academic year and for a productive, restorative summer. We know that like us, many of you will spend most of the summer working, even if you're on an academic-year appointment, whether it is on your research, scholarship, creative work, creating new courses, or reinventing existing ones. We honor that and honor you, along with our fiscal-year colleagues, who keep things running smoothly on campus all year round. Thank you.

In solidarity,
Lisa

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