



**Contract Negotiations to Start March 13; Kick-off Rally at Montague House.** Our WMU-AAUP team and the administration's team have agreed to a start date of Monday, March 13, for this year's contract negotiations. Meet the team at Montague House for snacks and solidarity at a kick-off rally on March 13, 2-3pm, as we send them off in style to their first bargaining session.

[Click here for more information.](#)

**Matthew Mingus Named WMU-AAUP Contract Administrator.** Bargaining-unit faculty voted unanimously at the chapter meeting on February 16, 2017, to approve the appointment of Dr. Matthew Mingus, Professor of Public Administration, to the position of contract administrator for the WMU-AAUP.

[Click here to learn more](#)

**Want to support our bargaining team? Training workshops Feb. 22 and 23.** Kira Schuman, national AAUP senior program officer, will lead two training workshops this week to help faculty develop new strategies to support our bargaining team and engage colleagues during negotiations. All dues-paying members of the WMU-AAUP bargaining unit are invited to participate. Two sessions (attend either one): Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 4pm, and Thursday, Feb. 23, at 12:30pm. Both sessions are in 207 Bernhard.

[Click here for details about the workshops.](#)

**Faculty survey on negotiation priorities open until Wednesday, Feb. 22.** If you haven't responded to the survey yet, now is the time to share your priorities with the bargaining team via the electronic survey first emailed to the faculty on February 9.

Please note that if you have ever opted out of Survey Monkey emails (from any sender), you will not receive an invitation to the WMU-AAUP faculty survey. If you'd like to participate, you will need to update your settings at the Survey Monkey site.

**The next Fourth Friday Happy Hour is this Friday, Feb. 24, at Arcadia Brewing Co.** As we prepare for contract negotiations, this is an opportunity to enjoy the company of faculty colleagues, build solidarity, and discuss negotiation priorities in a fun and family-friendly environment. As always, for dues-paying members, your first drink is on us. Arcadia Brewing Company, 701 E. Michigan Avenue, 5-6pm.

**The Iowa state legislature has passed a bill that sharply restricts the collective-bargaining rights of public-sector workers in that state.** The *Des Moines Register* [reports](#) that "Under the legislation, most public-sector union contract negotiations will be limited only to base wages. Unions will be banned from negotiating with their employers over issues such as health insurance, evaluation procedures, staff reduction and leaves of absence for political purposes."

The bill, similar to [Wisconsin's Act 10](#), passed in 2011 amid massive protests at the state capitol in Madison, also bans payroll deduction of union dues and requires unions to be recertified before every contract negotiation. Gov. Terry Brandstad [signed](#) the Iowa bill on February 17. The new law goes into effect immediately. Read more about it [here](#) and [here](#).

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