



**MLK Day Teach-In at WMU: Justice, Climate, and Civil Rights: Monday, January 16.** WMU faculty, students, and community leaders will present "Addressing Threats to Justice, the Climate, and Civil Rights: A Day of Learning and Action" on MLK Day, Monday, January 16. Sessions will combine short inspirational speeches, focused discussion, action plans, and connections to student, faculty, and community organizations. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in 208-210 Bernhard. For more information, contact Allen Webb ([allen.webb@wmich.edu](mailto:allen.webb@wmich.edu)) or Lewis Pyenson ([lewis.pyenson@wmich.edu](mailto:lewis.pyenson@wmich.edu)) or visit [Organize WMU](#).

**2017 contract negotiations:** Chief Negotiator Cynthia Klekar-Cunningham (English) and team members Whitney DeCamp (Sociology), Bruce Ferrin (Marketing), Jeremy Hierholzer (Aviation), and Michael Miller (Human Performance and Health Education) are working hard to prepare for 2017 contract negotiations later this spring. We are now scheduling department meetings to discuss faculty priorities. All bargaining-unit faculty are also invited to attend the WMU-AAUP Association Council meeting on January 20 (see below) for more information about upcoming negotiations.

**WMU-AAUP Association Council to meet Friday, January 20, at 1:30 p.m. in 157 Bernhard.** On the agenda so far are 2017 negotiations, healthcare costs, and the WMU presidential search. The AC will also meet at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 17 (105-107 Bernhard), and Friday, March 17 (157 Bernhard). Meetings of the Association Council are always open to all bargaining-unit members.

**The next Fourth Friday Happy Hour is January 27 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, 5-6 p.m.

**Save the date! The WMU-AAUP spring chapter meeting is Friday, April 14, at 1:30 p.m., in 208 Bernhard.** There will be a lot to talk about, especially 2017 contract negotiations. All bargaining-unit members are encouraged to attend.

**Legislative update:** The *Capital Times* (Madison, WI) [reported](#) in December that lawmakers in Michigan and several other states are considering legislation similar to Wisconsin's Act 10 (2011), which effectively eliminated public-sector collective bargaining in that state. No bills have been introduced yet during this term of the Michigan state legislature, which opened on January 11, but we are in frequent communication with friendly legislators and other sources in Lansing and will keep you informed of any developments. ([Click here to read the Capital Times article.](#))

**Be ready to mobilize against anti-union legislation:** Faculty should be prepared to call their state house and senate representatives when bills affecting higher education or our rights as union members are introduced. [Click here to find your state house representatives contact info](#) and [here for your state senator's contact info.](#)

**Our 2016-17 contract campaign is on!** Since our last negotiations, in 2014, we've seen an uptick in infringements on faculty rights to academic freedom, due process, and participation in shared governance on campuses nationwide. In this context, and in a political and economic climate of reduced legislative support for public education, WMU faculty once again face serious challenges as we approach our 2017 contract negotiations. That is why we have been working to organize a campaign of events and actions to build solidarity on campus and support for 2017 negotiations. [Click here to learn more about the campaign and how you can get involved.](#)

#StrengthInSolidarity

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