



NEGOTIATION NEWS 2017

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY CHAPTER

March 17, 2017

Update on first bargaining session: Ground rules signed and first articles exchanged

Negotiations got underway on Monday, March 13, with a productive conversation at the table. The teams signed ground rules for bargaining, and our WMU-AAUP team presented four proposals, while the administration's team presented one.

WMU-AAUP proposals:

Articles 17/18: The WMU-AAUP proposes language to confer promotion for faculty specialists concurrently and automatically with the granting of tenure. The current contract language confers promotion automatically to traditionally ranked faculty along with tenure, while faculty specialists must undergo a separate review for promotion.

Articles 30 and 43: For Articles 30 (eLearning) and 43 (Discoveries, Patents, and Copyrights), the WMU-AAUP proposes language to strengthen faculty intellectual property rights.

Article 48: The WMU-AAUP proposes adding the option of interdepartmental transfers that result in joint appointments.

Administration proposal:

Article 16: The administration proposes revisions to the policies and procedures for evaluation of faculty professional competence.

The next bargaining session is scheduled for Monday, March 20. In the meantime, our WMU-AAUP team is working in consultation with the chapter officers and Executive Committee to analyze the administration's proposal on Article 16 and formulate their response. They are also drafting proposals, working through data gathered from the recent faculty survey, and continuing to meet with faculty.

Bargaining sessions are scheduled for Monday afternoons through final exam week in April. During the spring semester, our team is constrained to this limited schedule by their teaching, research, and service responsibilities. Beginning in Summer 1, more frequent and longer sessions will be scheduled.

Message to the faculty from our WMU-AAUP bargaining team:

We would like to extend our thanks to the colleagues who joined us at Montague House on March 13 for the kickoff rally as well as those who joined us in spirit by sending messages of support and solidarity. We were energized by the thoughtful dialogue you engaged in with us – it was a great way to warm up for our first bargaining session! – and we appreciate your commitment to providing ongoing feedback and support for us as negotiations move forward.

We understand how hard it is for faculty to take time out of a busy day in the middle of the semester, especially on the first day back after spring break. If you were able to join us, thank you for coming out to show your support. To those who could not attend on March 13: We appreciate the confidence that so many of you have expressed in us and look forward to seeing you at future events. To all our colleagues: It means a lot to us to know you have our backs. Thank you. We will not let you down.

In solidarity,

Cynthia, Whitney, Bruce, Jeremy, and Mike

#StrengthInSolidarity

Spring 2017 WMU-AAUP Contract Campaign Calendar

January 2017

- 20 WMU-AAUP Association Council meeting**
Friday, January 20, 1:30 p.m. 157 Bernhard.
- 27 Fourth Friday Happy Hour - Build solidarity and discuss negotiation priorities**
Friday, January 27, 5-6 p.m. Arcadia Brewing Company, 701 E. Michigan Ave.

February 2017

- 16 WMU-AAUP special chapter meeting on 2017 contract negotiations, featuring a "A Question of Priorities: Understanding University Finances," presentation by Dr. Howard Bunsis**, professor of accounting at Eastern Michigan University and chair of the national AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress. Thurs, Feb. 16, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. Fetzer Center (Putney Auditorium).
- 22 "Campus Organizing and Building Your Contract Action Team," two faculty training sessions led by Kira Schuman, national AAUP senior program officer.** Wed, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m., and Thurs, Feb. 23, at 12:30 p.m. Both sessions are in 207 Bernhard.
- 24 Fourth Friday Happy Hour - Build solidarity and discuss negotiation priorities**
Dues-paying members: Your first drink's on us. Fri, Feb. 24, 5-6 p.m. Arcadia Brewing Company, 701 E. Michigan Ave.

March 2017

- 13 First 2017 negotiation session and kick-off rally at Montague House**
All bargaining-unit faculty, families, retirees, and allies are invited for snacks and solidarity as we send off our 2017 WMU-AAUP negotiation team in style to their first bargaining session. Monday, March 13, 1:30-2:30 p.m. 814 Oakland Drive. We will walk the team across the street to Walwood Hall at 1:15.
- 17 WMU-AAUP Association Council meeting.**
Friday, March 17, 1:30 p.m. 157 Bernhard Center.
- 24 Fourth Friday Happy Hour - Build solidarity and discuss negotiations**
Dues-paying members: Your first drink's on us. Fri, March 24, 5-6 p.m. Arcadia Brewing Company, 701 E. Michigan Ave.

April 2017

- 14 WMU-AAUP spring chapter meeting**
Friday, April 14, 1:30 p.m. 208 Bernhard Center.
- 28 Fourth Friday Happy Hour - Build solidarity and discuss negotiations**
Dues-paying members: Your first drink's on us. Friday, April 28, 5-6 p.m. Arcadia Brewing Company, 701 E. Michigan Ave.