



# NEGOTIATION NEWS 2017

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS  
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY CHAPTER

*February 1, 2017*

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## **Administration Requests Early Start to Bargaining, Teams Meet to Discuss**

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On Monday, January 30, our WMU-AAUP bargaining team met with the administration's team to discuss a proposal from the administration to begin 2017 contract negotiations earlier in the year than usual. (The first bargaining session in 2014 was on April 17.)

The administration's initial request, made informally in December 2016, was to begin negotiating on January 9, 2017. However, this was a nonstarter for our team, who wanted to begin the spring semester by focusing on meeting their new classes. Our team, appointed in December, also wanted more time than would have been feasible with a January start date to build experience working together and to prepare for the bargaining process. Finally, they also felt strongly that they could not go to the bargaining table without having invested the necessary time in meeting with faculty to discuss negotiation priorities.

After consulting with the WMU-AAUP Executive Committee, our team (Chief Negotiator Cynthia Klekar-Cunningham, Whitney DeCamp, Bruce Ferrin, Jeremy Hierholzer, and Mike Miller) declined the administration's request to start bargaining in January but agreed to hear their proposal to start later this semester but potentially earlier than in 2014.

At the January 30 meeting, the two sides did not reach an agreement on a start date, although both sides agreed that there may be value in exploring the possibility of an early start.

The two teams have arranged to meet again on February 13 for further consideration and look forward to having more to report to the faculty at the special chapter meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 16.

In the meantime, Cynthia, Whitney, Bruce, Jeremy, and Mike have been hard at work preparing for negotiations and attending department meetings to discuss faculty priorities. To schedule a meeting in your department with members of the bargaining team, contact your WMU-AAUP Association Council representative, call us at the chapter office at 345-0151, or email [staff@wmuaaup.net](mailto:staff@wmuaaup.net).

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### **WMU-AAUP SPECIAL CHAPTER MEETING TO DISCUSS 2017 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

Featuring a presentation by

**DR. HOWARD BUNNIS**

Professor of Accounting at Eastern Michigan University  
Chair of the National AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress

**"A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES: UNDERSTANDING UNIVERSITY FINANCES"**

**Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 2:30 p.m.  
Fetzer Center (Putney Auditorium)**

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## Spring 2017 WMU-AAUP Contract Campaign Calendar

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### 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.**  
Dues-paying members: Your first drink's on us. 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," a presentation by Dr. Howard Bunsis,** professor of accounting at Eastern Michigan University and chair of the national AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress. Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. Fetzer Center (Putney Auditorium).
- 24 Fourth Friday Happy Hour - Build solidarity and discuss negotiation priorities.**  
Dues-paying members: Your first drink's on us. Friday, February 24, 5-6 p.m. Arcadia Brewing Company, 701 E. Michigan Ave.

### March 2017

- 15 WMU Board of Trustees meeting.** Wednesday, March 15. 11 a.m. 157 Bernhard.
- 17 WMU-AAUP Association Council meeting.** Special guest Kira Schuman, senior program officer for the national AAUP, will join us to lead a training session: "Organizing on Campus and Building Your Contract Action Team." AC meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. Kira's session starts at 3. Friday, March 17. 157 Bernhard.
- 24 Fourth Friday Happy Hour - Build solidarity and discuss negotiation priorities.**  
Dues-paying members: Your first drink's on us. Friday, 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.
- 27 WMU Board of Trustees meeting.** Thursday, April 27. 11 a.m. Heritage Hall.
- 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.

