

NEWS

AAUP files notice for possible Sept. 2 strike

Over 90 members of the AAUP Chapter attended a meeting on Aug. 22 where members of the Chapter leadership team reported on the status of negotiations.

On Aug. 21, the Chapter Executive Committee filed a Strike Notice with the State Employment Relations Board. The notice says that if a contract agreement is not resolved by Sept. 2, the faculty will strike.

Chapter President Paul Davis said, "This year should have been the easiest year to get to an agreement—but it's not."

"The administration has been dragging things out—because that's what the Board of Trustees wanted them to do—and now we are jammed up in the process of waiting for a fact finder to schedule a hearing."

"We cannot lose our resolve," Paul said. "We have spoken to a number of people, including representatives of the Governor, about what a tragedy it would be if we can't get this contract settled."

"The AAUP Exec is doing everything we can to get these negotiations done and get a fair contract agreement in place."

Chief Negotiator Geoff Woolf said, "The administration is going to tell you that AAUP is trying to get you to participate in an illegal strike—and we won't do that."

"Right now, our chapter attorney and the administration's lawyer have different interpretations of what the collective bargaining law allows."

"While we're waiting for the lawyers to figure it out, remember that the administration has been dragging things out for a while."

"On August 6, the administration offered a take-it-or-leave-it proposal that would erode tenure and leave almost everyone working more but earning less in real dollars—and we didn't take it."

"On August 12, our team offered a real compromise. The administration team kept us waiting an hour and a half for a response and then they walked out."

"The mediator can't bring them back to the table; the only thing that will bring them back is fear of faculty action," Geoff said.

AAUP Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, August 26

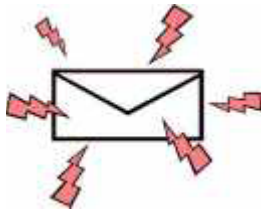
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

ATLC Point Room

Update on Negotiations (Plus Pizza)

Stay for BOT Meeting (starts at 5:30)

Wear your grey AAUP shirt!



Letters

To the Editor:

Like many of my faculty colleagues, I am bitterly disappointed in the administration's lack of meaningful effort in negotiations over the last several months. But like many of us who have been down this road before, I was ready to chalk it up to just a little twist of the "same old, same old."

With a strike looming, I wonder if those pulling the strings for the administration have really thought about the potential consequences of their actions.

Aside from the bitterness that would undoubtedly exist between faculty and administration, as well as the impact on our students, pushing faculty into a strike will result in real and lasting damage to the College.

A 2005 article in the *Chicago Tribune* details a 16% enrollment decline at campuses at the City Colleges of Chicago the year after a faculty strike in 2004.

An article in the *Salinas Californian* (June 18, 2008) noted a reason for hiring the new president of Hartnell College was the stabilization of an enrollment decline which followed a faculty strike in 2006.

Of course, the mother of all strike-aided enrollment declines is the case of Bridgeport University (Connecticut). A *New York Times* article (December 5, 1992) chronicles the demise of Bridgeport University from a thriving college of 9000 students to that of a little over 1000.

The *New York Times* article states that the hiring of non-union faculty in an attempt to break the strike was the final nail in the coffin that drove even more students away.

This decline in enrollment was so severe that Bridgeport's Board of Trustees eventually was forced to sell the university to the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

The fact of the matter is that bad feelings resulting from a strike will hurt our enrollment because the publicity that a strike generates is bad. We could still be hearing "I thought you guys were still on strike" in *June 2009 and later*.

The positive momentum generated since Dr. Henderson's arrival will be lost, and may not be regained for many, many years.

So, I wonder if those making decisions on the administration's side have thought about these realistic consequences. Have they asked Ms. Simpson to recalculate the Senate Bill 6 ratio with enrollment declines of 5%, 10%, and 15%? I don't know.

All I can hope for now is that Paul Davis' and Geoff Woolf's phone numbers haven't been replaced by Rev. Moon's in their contact list.

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