

NEWS

Bargaining Teams to hold first meeting on May 20

The Negotiating Teams for the faculty and the administration will meet on Tuesday, May 20, at 10 a.m.

Faculty Chief Negotiator Geoff Woolf said the purpose of the meeting is to establish a schedule and guidelines for this year's bargaining process.

In addition to Geoff, the Faculty Bargaining Team members are John Battistone, Jason Caudill, Joyce Rimlinger, and Dave Simmermon.

The administration's team includes Human Resources

Director Gene Breyer (Chief Negotiator), Executive Vice President Carolyn Anderson, Academic Vice President Monica Posey, Institutional Advancement Vice President Doug Heesten, and Dean Marianne Krismer.

AAUP Chapter President Paul Davis noted this is the first time in many years that the Negotiating Teams have had their initial meeting in May rather than in June.

"The AAUP Executive Committee has been meeting twice a week recently so we can

consider the recommendations and concerns identified by our Bargaining Council Committees," Paul said.

"We still need to complete some research and collect additional information from our members," Paul added. "However, we think it's a good time for our team to meet with the administration's team, and make a plan for the rest of bargaining."

Geoff said, "We're looking forward to productive negotiations that will produce a good contract agreement."

AAUP faculty survey moves from paper to web-based

Members of AAUP Bargaining Unit 1 will be receiving a Bargaining Issues Survey this week, but it won't be the multi-page paper document used in past years.

The chapter has purchased a Zoomerang account which will be used to distribute the survey.

Members will receive an email message from Chapter President Paul Davis that will include a link. Clicking the link will open the survey. Most responses will require simply clicking a button, and everyone will be able to add open-ended comments at the end of the survey.

All survey responses will be stored in a secure Zoomerang location.

Zoomerang.com was founded in 1999 and is now a recognized leader in online survey management software. Over 70 of the Fortune 100 companies, in addition to numerous educational and non-profit organizations, use this resource for communication with targeted audiences.

AAUP Executive Committee member Yvonne Baker is co-chairing the creation of the Chapter's first online survey.

"Our members should appreciate the efficiency of using a Zoomerang-based survey," Yvonne said.

"We're in the final stages of testing and quality-checking, but it looks like most members will need only 10 to 20 minutes to complete the whole survey," Yvonne added.

"We hope all of our members will answer the survey so we can have full understanding of all faculty concerns as we work on the new contract," Yvonne said.

Chancellor speaks to Ohio AAUP about *Strategic Plan for Higher Education*

At the Spring meeting of the Ohio Conference of AAUP, the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, Eric Fingerhut, spoke to attendees about the recently-published *Strategic Plan for Higher Education*.

According to Paul Davis, some of the Chancellor's comments applied directly to Cincinnati State.

"The Chancellor mentioned our College as one he believes should be increasing the number of students we serve," Paul said.

Paul said the Chancellor also discussed a bill being considered by Ohio legislators that would provide money for businesses to start or upgrade programs that provide co-op and internship opportunities for students.

"It's clear that Chancellor Fingerhut and Governor Strickland want to do everything possible to get more Ohio citizens to go to college, to keep those students in college, and to get them employed after they graduate with companies

that will keep them in Ohio," Paul added.

The Strategic Plan for Higher Education, which was released on March 31, sets an ambitious agenda for raising educational attainment and increasing collaboration among Ohio's public universities and colleges.

A method for aligning State funding of higher education with the goals of the *Strategic Plan* is supposed to be developed by September 30.

"The details of how higher education will change aren't fully known yet, but it's clear that the Chancellor isn't going to let the grass grow under his feet," Paul said. "Ten years from now, he really wants to see one seamless system that covers all two-year and four-year institutions in the State."

The entire *Strategic Plan* document (140 pages) can be downloaded from <http://universitysystem.ohio.gov>.

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