

NEWS

Negotiations begin; next session set for June 1

The first meeting between the Faculty and administration bargaining teams took place May 16.

According to the Faculty team, the meeting lasted about an hour and the primary topics were introductions of team members and discussion of groundrules for future bargaining sessions.

The next bargaining session is scheduled for June 1, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The Faculty team members are Geoff Woolf (chief negotiator), Pam Ecker, Bob Eveslage, Joyce Rimlinger, and Linda Schaffeld. David Simmermon and Alan Neace are "stand-by" bargaining team members who will assist with some topics.

The administration's chief spokesperson is James Lawrence, an attorney with the Cincinnati law firm Frost Brown Todd.

Mr. Lawrence teaches courses in negotiations and dispute resolution at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio State, the University of Louisville, and Pepperdine University.

The other members of the administration team are Human Resources Director Gene Breyer, Vice President Carolyn

Anderson, Chief Financial Officer Michael Geoghegan, and Vice President Monica Posey.

The administration team said that Vice President Dan Cayse and Dean Marianne Krismer will participate in some negotiation sessions.

Geoff said that at the May 16 meeting, the teams discussed the timeline for additional bargaining sessions.

"We hoped the administration would share our interest in completing negotiations efficiently, but we were told the administration team would not be able to meet with us again until June," Geoff said.

Geoff said the Faculty team hopes a meeting calendar for the entire month of June will be established soon.

AAUP seeks start for Unit 2 bargaining

The Cincinnati State AAUP plans to file paperwork this week with the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) and the College administration to begin negotiations for AAUP Bargaining Unit 2.

Unit 2 includes about a dozen full time faculty positions that are partly funded by grants.

"If needed, our team is willing to meet on evenings and weekends so we can make progress toward an agreement," Geoff said.

AAUP President Paul Davis said, "We have a mature contractual relationship with the administration that goes back more than 20 years. We hope it will not take too long to reach agreements on the areas that may need changes, especially the matters that are related to our change to semesters."

"We told the administration we wanted to start bargaining in February," Paul said. "It's in the best interests of our students and our community to finish negotiations, so we can get on with all of the other important work that needs our attention."

The Unit 1 contract expires in September 2011 and the Unit 2 contract expires in December 2011.

Chapter President Paul Davis said, "Since faculty members in Unit 2 do the same work as many Unit 1 faculty, we hope to discuss both contracts during our bargaining that is now underway."

CS AAUP collects close to 500 signatures for SB-5 repeal

Members of Cincinnati State AAUP have collected nearly 500 signatures in the drive to place repeal of Senate Bill 5 on the ballot in November.

Chapter President Paul Davis said signatures were collected by 18 faculty members who attended training sessions to learn the legal requirements and procedures for circulating petitions.

Signature collection activities included two days in early May when petitions were available at tables set up in the ATLC to seek support from students as well as employees.

Several faculty members circulated the petitions off-campus as well.

"It's gratifying that many of our members have been actively involved in the grassroots campaign to overturn Senate Bill 5," Paul said.

"Our on-campus training sessions included several faculty members who live in Kentucky and Indiana, since they are allowed to collect signatures in Ohio," Paul added.

Paul said the Chapter's participation in the petition drive is part of statewide activities coordinated by the Ohio Conference of AAUP.

The Conference Executive Director, Sara Kaminski, is a member of the leadership group for We Are Ohio, the coalition that is supervising the petition campaign.

Paul said the initial set of petitions assigned to Cincinnati State AAUP has been returned to We Are Ohio headquarters, as previously planned.

Paul said Cincinnati State volunteers may be asked to circulate more petitions in the future.

According to a May 20 news release from We Are Ohio, over 214,000 signatures have been collected so far, and more than 10,000 volunteers statewide are assisting with the petition drive.

The coalition plans to collect 450,000 to 500,000 signatures to ensure that enough valid signatures are obtained.

To place repeal of Senate Bill 5 on the November ballot, the petition drive must collect valid signatures from 231,149 registered Ohio voters, with a specific number of signatures from voters in each of Ohio's 88 counties.

The deadline to submit signatures to the Ohio Secretary of State is June 30.

Public opinion polling conducted by Quinnipiac University, as reported in the *Columbus Dispatch* on May 21, showed that 54 percent of Ohioans favored repeal of Senate Bill 5.

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