FACT agenda includes finishing contract language, plus several semester-related concerns

Representatives of the AAUP and the administration have been meeting periodically to try to complete the unfinished portions of the Unit 1 contract, and to resolve contractual concerns related to transition to semesters.

AAUP Contract Compliance Officer Geoff Woolf said, “We have several work groups trying to resolve the items that aren’t finished.”

“Because of complications in schedules of administrators and faculty members, the work isn’t done yet. But we are making some progress,” Geoff said.

Geoff said the discussions underway include:

• **Finalizing the Unit 1 contract language.** Final wording of the contract language that describes co-op coordinator workload is still not complete, but it’s hoped this matter will be resolved in the next few weeks.

• **Compensation and development process guidelines for online versions of semester courses.** The FACT committee met on Feb. 23 to begin discussing concerns related to development of online versions of semester courses.

FACT (Faculty / Administration Communication Team) is a contractually-recognized method for problem-solving and communication on matters of concern to faculty and administrators.

The FACT members agreed that the administration would compile a list of the online courses to be developed for semesters, and the designated course developers.

After the list is prepared, discussion will continue regarding compensation for the development work.

Geoff said, “Article 10 of the contract states that compensation for development of new online courses is, at minimum, the unit value of the course plus one additional unit.”

“However, we have agreed in FACT that after the list of semester online courses is ready for review, we are willing to discuss possible approaches to compensation that acknowledge differences in the amount of work associated with various online semester classes,” Geoff said.

“We believe that all development of online courses for semesters is new work as defined contractually, since no semester courses previously existed at this College,” Geoff continued.

“We also believe the administrators in FACT want to reach a fair resolution to our shared concerns about the work associated with developing these semester classes.”

“If for some reason we can’t work out an agreement in FACT on compensation for semester online courses, then the issue would go to arbitration, where we’re confident our position would prevail,” Geoff said.

Geoff said the FACT is close to an agreement on a set of guidelines for all faculty who are developing online courses for semesters.

These guidelines include participation in a Quality Matters workshop for course developers, and internal review of courses, using the Quality Matters rubric, preferably before these classes are scheduled for the first time.

• **Defining service days.** A meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss concepts for defining the service days component of faculty workload on semesters.

“I think both sides want to wrap up all of these discussions as soon as possible,” Geoff said. “But it’s been hard to schedule meetings because of the many other tasks and duties that are expected of the faculty and administrators who serve on FACT.”
The bargaining for a new contract for AAUP Unit 2 has been on hold since the session held Jan. 12, when the Faculty and Administration bargaining teams met for about 2 hours.

Faculty Chief Negotiator Geoff Woolf said, “At the session in January, we offered the administration two different approaches to achieving parity between our two faculty bargaining units. The Administration team said they needed some time to assess our proposal.”

Geoff said a bargaining session had been scheduled for February 29, but was canceled by the administration.

“The administration team has assured us they want to resolve this contract, and will be coming back to the bargaining table soon,” Geoff said.

“We also want to reach agreement on an acceptable solution,” Geoff said. “We will continue to press for scheduling additional bargaining as soon as possible.”

The terms of the previous Unit 2 contract remain in effect while bargaining continues.

The Sick Leave Bank is described in the Benefits Article of the Unit 1 and Unit 2 contracts.

• Support “Change 4 Change,” which provides assistance to children attending Cincinnati Public Schools who are experiencing homelessness. AAUP has contributed to this organization for the past four years, including $340 in donations in 2011.

• Join the AAUP Service Committee or the AAUP Scholarship Committee. Additional information about these committees and their activities will be available at the luncheon.

Interim Member-at-Large appointed

In accordance with the Chapter Bylaws, the AAUP Executive Committee has appointed Pam Ecker to serve as Member-at-Large.

The office became vacant when David Simmermon was elected Chapter President. Pam will serve until the next Chapter election in Fall 2012.