

# WMU-AAUP Bulletin

Western Michigan University  
Chapter of American  
Association of University Professors

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

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Your team has been meeting regularly for the last two months. We have a solid team that has evolved a high level of unity and solidarity. I feel privileged to work with such outstanding colleagues. We are dedicated to working tirelessly throughout the summer to negotiate the best contract possible. We have been studying your input from the dept. meetings that union leaders have been attending in order to formulate our negotiating positions. We will compile the results from the 4 surveys that we emailed you. We also encourage you to write your concerns on the form in your packets that will be handed out shortly, and email or call us.

What will it take for WMU to become a university that is thriving instead of merely surviving?

- more faculty lines
- less administrative interference
- faculty control of the curriculum
- fair and reasonable workloads
- money for faculty recruitment and retention
- money for real wage increases
- a shift in administration priorities
- less use of contingent faculty
- good and affordable healthcare

How do we achieve these things?

### COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

This summer we have a great opportunity and an enormous challenge—to negotiate a new and better contract, building on our current solid contract that has evolved over 30+ years.

April 2008



What will it take to achieve these gains?

It will take the struggle and sacrifice of all of us in this room and our colleagues who are not here. It will take forging solidarity and unity among a professoriate that prides itself on autonomy and independence. It will take putting aside our disagreements to stand together as one union whose strength is in our diversity, our love of knowledge, our love of teaching, our critical thinking and our principles of academic freedom.

The students and the faculty are the heart and soul of this university.

Our students are counting on us.

Our previous administrations have refused to hire enough faculty to do the job. If our administration reordered its priorities, we could do more for students, generate more research and creative activities, and be able to get more equitable salaries.

We must seize the time to fight for a better contract.

Are you willing to fight for a better contract?  
Are you willing to give some time, energy and ideas?  
Are you willing to mobilize when the Team needs you?  
Are you willing to get updates via our phone hotline and emails?

We will negotiate hard for what you want.

We can't do this without all of you!

Our arguments and facts won't win the battle.

Your visible support and solidarity will win it!

Join your colleagues this summer in informational picketing.  
Put a yard sign in your yard.  
Write a letter to the editor or to President Dunn.  
Join one of our committees and keep up to date on our progress.

Collectively, we can convince the administration to give us what we need to do our work, to teach our students, to engage in our scholarly activities, and to serve WMU.

The administration must make hard choices. We can pressure them to make the right choices.