

NEWS

AAUP continues preparing for negotiations and announces Bargaining Team for Unit 1 contract

The Cincinnati State AAUP is continuing to prepare for upcoming bargaining by seeking more information about faculty concerns, as well as appointing the Bargaining Team for Unit 1 contract negotiations.

The Unit 1 faculty contract expires at the end of Summer Semester 2017, and the Unit 2 contract expires in December 2017.

Chapter President Pam Ecker said about 100 faculty members attended the AAUP Open Forum on Jan. 23.

"At the Forum, faculty participated in lively and engaged discussion of many topics of concern," Pam said.

"The Chapter Executive Committee and Bargaining Council leaders reviewed the discussion notes, and used the information to help design a detailed survey," Pam added.

The survey was distributed by email to all bargaining unit faculty on Feb. 22. The deadline for survey responses is Friday, March 3.

"We hope all faculty members will take a few minutes to

complete the survey this week," Pam said.

Unit 1 Contract Bargaining Team announced

At the Forum on Jan. 23, the members of the Bargaining Team for Unit 1 contract negotiations were introduced.

The Faculty Chief Negotiator is Geoff Woolf. Geoff has served as Chief Negotiator for bargaining of seven previous Unit 1 and Unit 2 contracts.

The team members for Unit 1 contract negotiations are Tom Burns, Sue Dolan, Betsy LaSorella, and Julie McLaughlin.

"This team brings a range of skills to the bargaining table," Geoff said.

"Tom and Julie have served on past faculty bargaining teams," Geoff said. "Sue and Betsy bring to the team their experience carrying out important faculty

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Save the date...

"The Climate for Bargaining in 2017"

Dr. Howard Bunsis

Professor, Eastern Michigan U.

& Chair, National AAUP CBC
(Collective Bargaining Congress)

Thursday, April 6, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Lindner Auditorium (HPB 02)

Open to all full-time faculty members in
AAUP Bargaining Units 1 and 2

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responsibilities such as co-op coordination and program chair duties, as well as new perspectives on College-wide faculty concerns.”

Geoff said other faculty members will serve as consultants and may participate in bargaining sessions that deal with specific issues.

“In the past, we’ve added ‘faculty specialists’ to our team when the discussion at a particular bargaining session focuses on a topic that requires additional expertise,” Geoff said.

Committee and Focus Group meetings in March & April

The Bargaining Council Chairs, Paul Davis and Paula Kirch Smith, are finalizing a schedule for Focus Group meetings to examine concerns related to distinctive faculty roles and responsibilities.

“We plan to conduct the Focus Groups during the two weeks before Spring Break and the two

weeks after Spring Break,” Paul said.

A Focus Group for Program Chairs is scheduled for Friday, March 10, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Program chairs will receive an email message with the meeting location.

Additional Focus Groups will be scheduled, and details of meeting day / time / location will be provided by email. The groups are:

- Department Chairs
- Co-op Coordinators
- Clinical Coordinators
- Annually Contracted Faculty

Meetings also will be scheduled for three AAUP committees:

- Compensation (Paul Weingartner, chair)
- Health Benefits (Alyce Thompson and Kathleen Pickens, chairs)

- Bargaining Communications (Peggy Rolfsen, chair)

Faculty members who are interested in serving on a committee should get in touch with the chair.

“If you want to help on a committee, reach out to the chair now,” Pam said. “You don’t have to wait for a meeting announcement.”

“Before we send our team to the bargaining table, we will make sure that we have comprehensive information from faculty members,” Pam said.

“Through the survey, focus groups, and committee meetings, the AAUP leadership team and bargaining team will be well informed about faculty needs, concerns, and recommendations,” Pam said.

“The information faculty provide will allow us to prepare the proposals our team takes to the bargaining table,” Pam added.

State AAUP publishes Ohio Higher Education Report

The Ohio Conference of AAUP, which represents AAUP chapters at 25 Ohio public and private higher education institutions, recently published *Education First*, a report and analysis of the state’s higher education initiatives and funding.

The purpose of the report is to shed light on the true cost-drivers in higher education.

The report also urges state lawmakers and institutions to make the educational missions of colleges and universities the focus of decision-making.

Copies of the report can be downloaded from the Ohio

Conference website at <http://ocaup.org>.

Topics discussed in the report include the state funding formula, College Credit Plus, competency-based education, and the impact of the debt incurred by institutions when financing campus building projects.

The report also discusses the increasing use of part-time faculty, and the process for appointing trustees for Ohio’s public colleges and universities.

The *Education First* report is being shared with state legislators and higher education reporters to bring attention to

AAUP’s analysis of issues and perspectives on Ohio higher education.

Several Ohio newspapers, including the *Columbus Dispatch* and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, have published news stories about the AAUP report.

The Cincinnati State AAUP representatives to the Ohio Conference of AAUP are Ryan Shadle and Mark Tiemeier.



CState AAUP has a history of service to students & community

The Cincinnati State AAUP Chapter has a tradition of service that goes back to the earliest years of the Chapter.

Often, the Chapter has put a spotlight on service during the month of February, using the slogan "Have A Heart, Do Your Part."

Chapter President Pam Ecker said, "We didn't have a special "Have A Heart" event in February this year, but we hope our AAUP members consider contributing to service opportunities at many times each year."

Current AAUP service projects include:

College Career Closet

AAUP's newest service activity is helping to provide staffing and support for the Cincinnati State Career Closet.

The College Career Closet is a partnership with the College Development Office and the Cincinnati State Foundation.

Through these efforts, students who are preparing for interviews and/or co-op or internship employment can obtain work-appropriate attire at no cost.

To use the Career Closet, students must be referred by a co-op coordinator or another faculty member.

AAUP members (and others) can assist by donating career attire or donating funds to purchase attire, and by volunteering to staff the Career Closet and assist students in selecting their "interview outfits."

For more information about how to help with the Career Closet, contact AAUP Service Committee Chair Andi Feld.

Andi said volunteers are needed throughout the year, but there's a special need for help in March.

"We want to ensure the Career Closet is available as students prepare for the Co-op & Career Expo on March 15," Andi said.

AAUP Kenneth V. Stoll Scholarship and John M. Battistone Scholarship

Both AAUP scholarships provide financial assistance (\$1,000 to be used for tuition, fees, and/or books) for a Cincinnati State student who has demonstrated academic excellence while pursuing a degree.

Support for the scholarships can include donating funds (through the Cincinnati State Foundation), or encouraging students to apply for these scholarships.

AAUP Scholarship funds are disbursed using the standard processes managed by the Cincinnati State Foundation.

The AAUP Scholarship applications are reviewed by the Chapter Scholarship Committee, chaired by Darlene Gray. Recommended recipients are approved by the AAUP Chapter Executive Committee.

The deadline for 2017 scholarship applicants is March 1, the same as the deadline for other institutional scholarships.

A packet of scholarship application materials was distributed by email to all full-time faculty members.

The scholarship application materials also can be obtained from the Chapter website, www.cinstataaup.org, in the "Library" section of the site.

Sick Leave Bank

The Faculty Sick Leave Bank was established in 2002 as part of contract negotiations between the College administration and Cincinnati State AAUP.

The Sick Leave Bank is described in both the AAUP 1 and AAUP 2 bargaining unit contracts.

The purpose of the Sick Leave Bank is to provide additional leave days to bargaining unit faculty members who have exhausted their accumulated sick leave, personal leave, and vacation days, but otherwise qualify for leave.

The Sick Leave Bank currently has about 200 days "banked," but additional donations provide assurance of support for colleagues who might face an unexpected health emergency.

Any faculty member may donate from 1 to 10 days to the Sick Leave Bank each year, provided that the donor will have at least 35 days remaining in their own accumulated leave.

Days may also be donated to the Sick Leave Bank prior to retirement.

More information about the Sick Leave Bank (including how to request leave days from the bank) is on the Chapter website in the Service section at www.cinstataaup.org/service/sick-leave-bank.

An eform for donating days to the Sick Leave Bank is available on the College Intranet. There's also an eform to request use of days from the Sick Leave Bank.

Governor's higher education budget proposals include a \$300 cap on book costs for students

The process of building the state budget for the next fiscal year is still in the early stages, but Governor Kasich and state legislators have already put forward a variety of proposals.

According to information published by the Ohio Conference of AAUP and other sources, the governor's budget proposals would require public colleges and universities to pay for students' textbooks (similar to the way secondary schools provide books for students).

Institutions would be allowed to charge students no more than \$300 a year to defray book costs.

Ohio AAUP, as well as other organizations representing college and university faculty, administrators, and trustees, have expressed concerns about the costs of implementing this unfunded mandate.

Other budget proposals from the governor would expand competency-based education, allow high school students to get college credit for work experience, and provide a scholarship fund to assist drop-outs with returning to college and completing their degree.

The governor's budget proposals also reintroduce the

option for some bachelor's degrees to be offered by community colleges. This proposal was not supported by the state legislature when the governor introduced it in previous years.

The governor's budget also calls for freezes to tuition and fees for the next two years, with a 1% increase in overall higher education funding in Fiscal Year 2018.

Additional information on higher education budget proposals is available at the Ohio Conference of AAUP website, <http://ocaaup.org>.

AAUP Bargaining Unit Members (Units 1 and 2)

Please complete the Bargaining Issues Survey by March 3, 2017

**Link to the survey was emailed on Feb. 22 -
Contact Pam Ecker if you need the link again**

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