



SPIRIT OF 1776 NEWSLETTER

SPIRIT
OF
1776



UMASS EMPLOYEE'S LOCAL 1776 - COUNCIL 93 / AFSCME, AFL-CIO - 545-2831
116 HAMPSHIRE HOUSE, AMHERST, MA 01003

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CONTRACT VOTE: THUMBS DOWN



HAMPSHIRE HOUSE – Yesterday, AFSCME members in a heavy voter turnout decisively rejected a tentative contract settlement. The margin approached 3-1. More than the money, many members seem to vote against the new drug and alcohol language. The reason: UMass is singling out blue-collar workers for a non-progressive drug policy – The policy does not apply to UMass administrators, faculty, clerical workers, grad students, or undergrads. Moreover, UMass management seems out of sync with the citizens of the Commonwealth who voted recently to liberalize penalties for marijuana use. Had this language been ratified you could have been fired for the presence of even cannabis in your blood. Says President Francis Martin, “ This drug

policy was a disparate decision by management applied to only our union because we had three labor cases against management. Management cited our cases as a reason for applying a drug and alcohol policy only to our union. The Administration is always saying that they want to be fair to everyone... they want policies to apply to everyone on campus. Well, then they tell us that we either accept the new drug language or no payraises... this violates any statement that they want to be fair to everyone. In addition, there were numerous items that we had on the table, items important to our membership, like training monies that management refused to even discuss.”

ONE BRIGHT NOTE

At this moment, **NO LAYOFFS** are in sight for our members. The reason: swift action from the Obama administration to distribute federal stimulus monies to Massachusetts and to our region, and to the campus.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

As we go forward into a whole new set of bargaining negotiations. We need your input. Please send in your ideas for our bargaining team. You can get that information to us three ways:

1. Email your ideas to local1776@external.umass.edu
2. Call your ideas in to our office at 545-2831
3. Ask your union rep to relay your ideas to our office

Member Vote

	Vote	Percent
Yes	136	26%
No	380	73%
Contested	0	0%
Void	3	1%

IN MEMORY OF MISTY BASSI

TRAGICALLY KILLED
ON THE DAY OF HER UMASS GRADUATION

AFSCME MEMBER AND MAINTAINER I

– YOU WILL BE MISSED –

NEXT STEPS

According to Union President Francis Martin, these are the next steps for bargaining a new agreement:

1. Re-form the bargaining committee
2. Determine chief negotiator
3. Get input from members
4. Demand to bargain
5. Start bargaining from scratch

* As we head into bargaining a second time, we do not know what monies will be available for wage increases.

Reaction to Contract Rejection

Chief Steward Joe Broussard: I guess people had enough.

Steward Mark Petit: I was out sick yesterday, so didn't vote. But I'm glad it didn't pass.

Member Gerry Ouimette: I voted for the contract. I don't want to wait two years for the money.

Chief Steward Carol Taylor: Sitting at the bargaining table, I was not impressed by Management's last minute high-handed posturing.

Member Kevin McCartney: I hope that the results of this contract vote will lead the University to revisit the concerns of the union's membership.

Steward Fred Mielnikowski: I'm disgusted: something is better than nothing.

Member Mike Lipski: I'm amazed that so many people voted. It's important that we vote.

Chief Steward Mike Soja: The people voted this contract down overwhelming. We're in it for the long term. It's not going to be a quick process. People need to keep united and prepare for a long drawn out battle. We're right here, and we're going to win.

Member Gail Meunier: I think that many people voted against the contract because the money wasn't there.

Steward Joe Malinowski: I feel that the stewards and union reps did a very good job of informing the members of the negative points of this contract. I think this is a very positive step for the union. We're in for some tough times.

Treasurer Randy Boivin: People finally voted in their best interests.