

## Main Identity

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**From:** "Mass. Society of Professors" <msp@external.umass.edu>  
**To:** "All Unit Email List" <allunit@external.umass.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2007 1:00 PM  
**Subject:** [Allunit] MSP Bargaining Update

Dear MSP Members,

This is my third update on the status of bargaining.

We continue to await word about financial parameters from the Governor's Office of Administration and Finance. Intensive negotiations around financial proposals (salary, professional development and the like) will have to wait another few weeks, when we have a signal from the Governor's office.

We have, nonetheless, continued to make the case for many of our proposals which do not require the gubernatorial blessing. At our last "main table" session (i.e. with the administration's full team and both parts -- Amherst and Boston -- of our team), a number of your colleagues made the case for a better professional development policy, for protecting faculty rights and our students' education from ill-conceived online education programs, for a full-year sabbatical at three-quarters pay policy, for providing health insurance to our new hires, and for extending some of the benefits we gained for full-time contract faculty to those working less than full time. These issues were among the top priorities in our bargaining survey. Thanks to Michele Budig, Dan Clawson, Nancy Folbre, Jean Forward, Aline Gubrium, Jerry Levinsky, Craig Nicholson, Dean Robinson, and Emily West for testifying at the bargaining table.

Your bargaining team also responded to the administration in no uncertain terms about the calendar change proposal. The survey results -- which 544 of you responded to -- were unambiguous. By an over 3 to 1 ratio, you expressed your opposition to the administration's plan to change the calendar: 358 were opposed (66%); 112 were in favor (21%) and 74 were neutral (14%). The administration was surprised by these numbers but also continues to insist that they don't consider this a bargainable issue (i.e. they can implement it whether or not the union disagrees). We made it clear we reject that reasoning and will insist that they must bargain with us over such a fundamental shift in the working conditions for our members.

This past week, and this coming Friday, we will meet in campus negotiation sessions (Amherst and Boston separately) to discuss local issues. We continue to discuss and seek responses from the administration about our proposals for a "bridge fund" for research faculty who get caught between grants, a better anomaly process with dedicated funds, a phased and post-retirement proposal, and improved base salaries and multi-year contracts for our adjunct faculty members.

Please feel free to contact me or any other member of the bargaining team (Sharon Domier, Holly Lawrence, Stephanie Luce, Randy Phillis) to discuss the specifics of these negotiations. I also intend to have a more public meeting of our members when we have received a formal salary offer.

Max Page  
MSP President

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Allunit mailing list  
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