

## Main Identity

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**From:** "MSP" <msp@external.umass.edu>  
**To:** <allunit@external.umass.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2007 2:59 PM  
**Subject:** [Allunit] MSP Contract Negotiations Update

Dear MSP Member:

We are entering a critical phase of negotiations, when positions harden and we focus on a narrow range of topics of fundamental importance to us. As I said at the General Assembly last week, there is no guarantee of winning important gains. It will require hard work by the bargaining team and, more importantly, by you.

As of today we still have no offer on salaries or professional development funds from the Governor's Office. We have been in contact with the Governor's Office, and are using all our connections to the Patrick administration to push them to act quickly on a fair monetary offer.

At Friday's bargaining session with the Amherst administration, your bargaining team discussed other central issues we wanted serious action on, including improvements to the sabbatical system, a phased retirement system, improved working conditions for contract faculty, and funds for salary anomalies which address inequities often affecting women and people of color in greater numbers. Unfortunately, at this point we see very little movement from Provost Seymour's Office on these key issues.

While we did not discuss the online course ownership policy at the last bargaining session, the MSP remains absolutely committed to retaining both the individual faculty members' rights over courses they develop and the union's right to shape online course policy at the university. Please see an MSP position paper about this issue, as well as one about the proposed academic calendar change, at the MSP website: <http://www.umass.edu/msp/id106.htm>. A number of other issues, particularly those that apply to both the Amherst and Boston campuses, will be discussed at the "main table" next Friday.

All of this means that to achieve a good contract we are probably going to have to call on you to convince the Provost on our campus, and the President and Board of Trustees in Boston, that it is in their best interest to move on issues of greatest importance to the MSP.

To that end, please take note of the following important dates in our campaign for the contract and public higher education this spring. We may be alerting you to others.

**April 25 PHENOM Lobby Day.** Email Ferd Wulkan ([wulkan@external.umass.edu](mailto:wulkan@external.umass.edu)) to reserve a seat on the free bus to the Statehouse where we will deliver thousands of postcards to the Governor and every legislator, and will pursue a legislative program that would have a profound effect on this campus. This is the launch of an unprecedented group -- students, faculty, and staff from all 29 public colleges and universities unified on behalf of public higher education -- that your union has been instrumental in forming. Please make the day a success by spending the day lobbying on behalf of our university.

**May 3 Special Faculty Senate Meeting** -- Board of Trustees Chair Steve Tocco will address the Faculty Senate in Thompson 102 at 1:30 PM. The Board is our employer, and he will need to hear how bargaining is going and how we feel about it. Unless we have miraculous movement on both economic parameters (controlled by the Governor) and other significant non-monetary issues (controlled by the Provost on our campus and by the President's Office in Boston) we will need to let Mr. Tocco know that we demand more progress, and quickly. He has in the past said he is eager to get our contract settled on time. We need to hold him to that.

Sincerely,

Max Page, President