

3/29/2021 Allunit: MSP Bargaining Update

Dear all,

We write with updates from the bargaining table, where on Friday March 26th we completed our second bargaining session. As a reminder, your MSP bargaining team consists of Eve Weinbaum, Marc Liberatore, Jacquie Kurland, Asha Nadkarni, Kate Zdepski, Mickey Gallagher, and Lori Reardon, with Heather LaPenn as chief negotiator. The team for the administration is Tricia Serio, Barbara Krauthamer, Jocelyn Tedisky, Linda Enghagen, and Sophie Stevenson, with Michael Eagen as chief negotiator.

We continue to work on our Covid-19-related Memorandum of Agreement before we begin bargaining the successor contract. In preparation for successor bargaining we had a Bargaining Summit this week with the other campus unions, where we talked about crafting linked proposals (particularly those relating to salary, paid holidays, climate justice, and full staffing) and we discussed how we might work together in coalition. We are in the process of finalizing the MSP bargaining platform for successor bargaining – stay tuned for that!

In terms of Covid-19-related items, we continue to pursue measures that will ensure equity for our members in this difficult time. These include:

- Automatic tenure decision year (TDY) delays to ensure that all pre-tenure faculty receive the extension of time warranted by pandemic related constraints: namely the cessation of research, and the increase in caretaking obligations. While members can apply for TDY delays on an individual basis, we feel that putting the obligation upon individual faculty members will only increase existing inequities;
- Some form of workload adjustment for faculty and librarians whose work increased due to Covid-19 health and safety protocols to accommodate in-person student instruction and services;
- Modification of the use of the SRTI to ensure faculty are not harmed by student-driven evaluations of teaching during this period.

We have a robust schedule set for bargaining (we will meet every week until our period of non-responsibility begins), and many important proposals related to equity and justice to bring to the table. We will keep you informed of what's happening every step of the way.

In solidarity,

Eve Weinbaum, Marc Liberatore, Jacquie Kurland, Asha Nadkarni, Kate Zdepski, Mickey Gallagher, and Lori Reardon, with Heather LaPenn as chief negotiator