

5/11/2020 [Allunit] MSP Bargaining Update

Hello everyone,

First, we are asking you to take a minute to send a quick email to our legislators to protest unfair treatment of our union colleagues at UMass Lowell, where essential workers are now being threatened with layoffs. The form to send is here:

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/stop-layoffs-at-umass-lowell>

Your bargaining team has been at the table the past several Fridays. Given the COVID-19 crisis, we have proposed to the administration that we extend our current contract for one year with no pay increase, but with some important, non-economic, changes that will not be difficult to implement but that will help our members. In times of crisis existing inequities often are exacerbated; our goal in this round of bargaining has been to address issues of equity and justice that are more important now than ever.

We are still working out the details of the one-year package, and we have some excellent proposals on the table, including improved language around sick leave processes, broader categories for bereavement leave, equitable workload processes, teaching evaluation processes, funds for childcare and elder care, and extensive language to protect our rights around online or hybrid educational models.

Understanding that faculty and librarians will be working hard to prepare for fall teaching, the MSP proposed that our members will spend two weeks this summer on course preparation for the fall. Because we will perform this work during our period of non-responsibility, we have asked the administration to withdraw their proposal for unpaid furloughs.

Any issues that we do not resolve in this one-year package agreement will remain on the table for the successor agreement. The bargaining team will continue our work throughout the next year to negotiate a new contract.

In solidarity,

MSP Bargaining team

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

Allunit mailing list

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