

Dear AAUP Colleagues,

After weeks of unnecessary delay by the KSU administration, contract negotiations for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement finally began on May 29th. Here is an update on progress to date.

As you know, AAUP-KSU announced its bargaining team membership in March. They include:

Chief negotiator	Cheryl Casper, AAUP-KSU staff consultant, former KSU Professor of Economics.
Team members	Paul Abraham, Associate Professor, Mathematical Sciences, Stark Campus Jennifer Larson, Professor of Modern and Classical Language Studies Kara Robinson, Associate Professor of Libraries and Media Services Kathy Wilson, Professor of Economics
Alternates	Eric Mintz, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences Will Ward, Associate Professor of Technology, Trumbull Campus

After rejecting several dates for the start of negotiations, the administration finally announced their team membership on May 27th. They include:

Chief negotiator	Gayle Ormiston, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Curriculum.
Team members	Ruth Capasso, Associate Dean, Stark Campus; Fred Martone, Human Resources* Richard Rubin, Director, Library and Information Science Mark Weber, Dean, Libraries and Media Services; and alternates
Alternates	Richard Kent, Associate Dean, Business Administration Robert Sines, Associate Dean, Trumbull Campus

*Subsequently, the administration has replaced Fred Martone with James Kurek of the law firm of Millisor and Nobil.

There have been three bargaining sessions to date. The parties have set the goal for completion of contract negotiations by July 31, 2008. Now that negotiations are finally underway, we will send you periodic updates on our progress.

As with previous negotiations, it is unlikely that the parties will discuss salary and benefit issues until near the end of the process. As many of you know, the extension of domestic partner benefits to bargaining unit faculty was added to the administration's original contract extension offer at AAUP-KSU's request and it continues to be a high priority for the Association.

If you have questions or concerns about the ongoing negotiations, please feel free to contact the AAUP-KSU Office at office@aaupksu.org.