



# Academic Staff Professionals Representation Organization

Advocating on Behalf of Academic Staff Since 1989...

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May 31, 2007  
[www.aspro.net](http://www.aspro.net)

## Deadline Approaching

Time is running out on our "Will Recruit (or join) for Food" membership recruitment campaign.

Just a reminder that ASPRO members who recruit others to join have a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate from the Wisconsin Restaurant Association, good at any one of 7,000 restaurants across the state.

All it takes is a note on your colleague's membership application form, saying "So-and-so recruited me." Your name will be entered in the drawing once for each new member you recruit.

If your colleagues aren't persuaded by the many (other) benefits of being in ASPRO, or by your hope to win a gift certificate, tell them they have a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate too. A separate drawing will be held for new members.

Membership forms must be received at the ASPRO office by June 15. Winners' names will be drawn at the summer academic staff conference June 28-29 in Superior. Winners need not be present to win.

ASPRO leaders are working hard and have achieved a great deal on behalf of the membership. Your effort to encourage colleagues to join ASPRO is greatly appreciated.

So please use the attached membership application to urge your colleagues to join ASPRO today.

Membership drive co-chairs,  
Becky Ryan (Madison) and Dave Carlson (Rock County)

## State Budget Updates

### Domestic Partner Benefits

The Joint Committee on Finance has been taking action on portions of the Governor's proposed biennial budget over the last few weeks. The University of Wisconsin System's budget items will be considered on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

While the Finance Committee's work is winding down, it is possible that a budget amendment will be offered to include domestic partner benefits for state employees. We would expect that such an amendment would be offered by Senator Mark Miller or Representative Mark Pocan. It is anticipated, however, that such a proposal would fail on an 8-8 vote (with all Democrats supporting and all Republicans opposing).

The more likely scenario is that the Senate Democrats will include the domestic partner benefit language in the budget they pass. The Assembly Republicans' version will not include the language; and the issue will be before the Conference Committee as one of many items that will be negotiated.

It is possible that a "compromise" could be offered in the Conference Committee to grant domestic partner benefits to the employees of the UW System. The "catch" could be that the University would have to cover the cost within its budget (that is, no extra state revenue to cover the cost of offering the benefit).

ASPRO continues to support domestic partner benefits and will keep you posted on the issue.

### Collective Bargaining for Faculty and Academic Staff

As we reported last month, the onerous language in the budget bill to extend collective bargaining rights to the faculty and academic staff was removed as a policy item and is expected to be offered as a separate piece of legislation. As of this writing, no bill has been introduced.

ASPRO President Bill Steffenhagen has been approached by Andy Gussert of AFT-Wisconsin (American Federation of Teachers). His letter stated that "as we move to introduce enabling language again in the future, it would be beneficial for all of us to address ASPRO's concerns." Steffenhagen has responded to Gussert and urged him to contact ASPRO lobbyist Janet Swandby to arrange a meeting.

AFT's overture signals that ASPRO's lobbying effort has been effective. It remains to be seen if ASPRO and AFT can find common ground.

Welcome New Members:  
Jane Shepard of UW-Madison  
Jeffrey Strobel of UW-Madison