



## Members = Power

As a lobbying organization, ASPRO's visibility within the State Capitol has never been stronger. But, efforts to establish a collective bargaining scheme that will put academic staff at a disadvantage compared to your faculty colleagues will continue.

ASPRO needs to be financially secure in order to continue to protect your interests. Earlier this year, ASPRO began a successful membership drive that resulted in dozens of new members, but the total number of ASPRO members today is fewer than one year ago.

Why? Because ASPRO members are retiring at a faster rate than new members are being recruited.

ASPRO dues are based on members' salaries, and the dues income which funds ASPRO's successful lobbying efforts is lower today than one year ago.

We need **each ASPRO member to recruit a member**. This should not be difficult because only 1 in 10 academic staff are members of ASPRO. And even fewer academic staff are members of one of the unions. As you approach your colleagues, it is unlikely that you will be approaching someone who is already an ASPRO member. And if he or she is, you will know that you share the same values.

**Won't you help us assure that ASPRO remains strong?** An ASPRO membership application is attached.

## ASPRO Victorious – AGAIN

### UW Collective Bargaining Not Part of State Budget

After months of lobbying legislators about the flaws in the UW collective bargaining language in the Senate's version of the biennial budget, **ASPRO can claim victory AGAIN**. The **compromise budget bill passed by both the Senate and the Assembly yesterday did NOT include language granting collective bargaining rights** to UW faculty and academic staff.

As you know, ASPRO has not taken a position opposing collective bargaining rights per se, but has opposed the proposed specifics of how collective bargaining would be implemented in the UW System.

The Governor's original budget proposal included language which created separate collective bargaining units for the faculty and the academic staff and prohibited the merger of the units.

**ASPRO's lobbying pressure on legislators forced the unions (AFT, TAUWP and UFAS) to amend the language** in the version of the budget passed by the Democratically-controlled Senate. The Senate bill would have allowed academic staff and faculty collective bargaining units to combine, but the likelihood that sufficient numbers of faculty would vote for such a merger was remote at best. The language, while an improvement over the Governor's, did not meet ASPRO's standard that the academic staff and faculty have to be treated equally in any collective bargaining scheme.

**Even with two victories under our belt, ASPRO members cannot become complacent.** The unions will continue their push in the legislature. We fully expect Senator Dave Hansen's bill to introduce a bill similar to the Governor's original plan or the Senate Democratic proposal. If Hansen introduces the bill, we expect a public hearing in the Senate. ASPRO will oppose the bill, but will need academic staff to speak against the measure.

Congratulations, but be prepared for the next attack. ASPRO will keep you posted.