



Supplemental Pay Plan - Is it Dead or Only Comatose?

There has been no official word from the Doyle administration that they have abandoned their plan to grant a supplemental pay raise to faculty and (some, but not all) academic staff.

The last ASPRO's lobbyists have been told by legislative leaders is that **our message has been embraced by the UW System leadership and communicated effectively to OSER that any supplemental pay raise must be granted to all faculty and ALL academic staff.**

In the meantime, however, State analysts have announced a substantial projected state deficit. Soon after the deficit announcement, ASPRO learned that Governor Doyle hopes to protect K-12 education and the University from any cuts.

Unfortunately, the deficit projections have grown since that time from \$300 - \$400 million to more than \$650 million.

ASPRO would not be surprised if the funds that might have been used to provide a pay plan supplement to faculty and academic staff may have to be used to address GPR cuts to the UW System.

Collective Bargaining Bill Passes Senate But this May be End of the Road for SB 353

On Tuesday, February 19th, the Wisconsin State Senate passed Senate Bill 353 on a vote of 21-12. As expected, all of the Democrats voted in favor. They were joined by three Republican Senators: Mike Ellis of Neenah, Dan Kapanke of LaCrosse, and Dale Schultz of Richland Center.

The Senate Democratic majority was intent on scheduling a vote on SB 353. Democratic leaders invoked a rarely-used rule and pulled the bill from the Joint Committee on Finance before the Committee had taken action on the bill. With this move, **the Democrats have essentially conceded that the Finance Committee would not have given the bill a favorable recommendation.**

Senate Bill 353 now moves to the Assembly. We expect that it will be referred to the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities because its Assembly companion, Assembly Bill 726, was referred there earlier.

The Colleges and Universities Committee is chaired by Representative Steve Nass. ASPRO Lobbyist Janet Swandby met with his chief of staff and learned that Representative Nass may hold a hearing on the bills, but the union supporters of collective bargaining at the UW would have to submit amendments first.

Nass believes that any collective bargaining bill for faculty and academic staff **must cover all working conditions including tenure and academic freedom.** He believes that the right to bargain collectively at the UW should not be put in the state statutes related to other state employees, but should be addressed in Chapter 36 related to creation of the UW System and governance rights for faculty and academic staff. Nass also believes that the language in SB 353/AB 726 is vague regarding who will negotiate with the unions. For instance, could the Board of Regents simply defer to the Office of State Employment Relations (OSER) or the State Department of Administration?

ASPRO, of course, will be prepared for a public hearing in the Assembly and will keep you posted.

UW-Stout Passes Collective Bargaining Resolution

The UW-Stout Senate of Academic Staff unanimously passed a resolution this month opposing any collective bargaining proposal that would separate the academic staff from the faculty.

Please encourage your academic staff governance body to consider a similar resolution. For a copy of the resolution, contact the ASPRO office at aspro@aspro.net.