



ASPRO Again Takes the Lead to Protect Academic Staff Unit Clarification Update

As reported in the November issue of the *ASPRO Advocate* newsletter (click [here](#) for a copy), the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) ruled against the UW System's request to dismiss the petitions of the various unions. As you will recall, the unions filed the petitions to fold academic staff positions into existing state employee unions. The WERC had announced that it planned to move forward with hearings on the unions' petitions. Potentially hundreds of academic staff could be affected.

The latest salvo in this ongoing battle is that the Board of Regents of the UW System and the Office of State Employment Relations (OSER) are pursuing a legal remedy and have filed a lawsuit in Dane County Circuit Court against the WERC to stop unit clarification (click [here](#) for a copy of the summons/complaint).

ASPRO, however, is not content to wait for the outcome of a lawsuit. Unit clarification is an unjust attack on the governance rights of the academic staff and denies academic staff the right to vote whether or not to be represented by a union. ASPRO's lobbyists have met with key legislators and are pursuing a legislative solution. The goal is to pass legislation which will clarify that the WERC does not have the authority to assign academic staff positions to existing unions representing other state employees who work outside of the UW System.

Please Help

We know that the threat of unit clarification is of great concern to thousands of academic staff. If your position/job description has been targeted as one of the positions that unions hope to claim through unit clarification, you have felt the anxiety. Please help enhance the clout of ASPRO by asking your colleagues to join. This is not a time to sit back and hope that someone else will take the lead to protect your job. ASPRO is the only organization representing the academic staff. Please help keep ASPRO strong as we work to rescind unit clarification. Click [here](#) for a membership application.