



As requested . . . Providing current information and resources

Unit Clarification

[Last month](#) we reported that the UW System and the Office of Employment Relations (OSER) had filed motions asking the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) to dismiss the unit clarification petitions filed by various unions.

The ping-pong match continues; and the unions have filed their [responses to the motions to dismiss](#). All of these documents are available for your review on the ASPRO website isaunionforu.com. The next volley is that System and OSER can respond to the unions' responses.

Collective Bargaining Resources

ASPRO is aware that governance groups on many UW Campuses are working to provide information to academic staff about the new law granting collective bargaining rights to academic staff and faculty.

The [UW System](#) has information on the new law on its website. An alternative site was prepared by the Legislative Subcommittee of the [UW-Milwaukee Senate of the Academic Staff](#). This site is a good, and very balanced, overview. Some viewers, however, may find the section on "Payment to Unions" a bit confusing. While technically accurate, the site does not explain "payment agreements". As UWM points out, academic staff will not have to join a union even if a majority of their colleagues vote to be represented by one. But, under a "fair share agreement", all academic staff would have to make payments to the union elected to represent them. We are not aware of any state employee union without a fair share agreement.

Last month, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) held information sessions on the UW-Eau Claire Campus with faculty from two Illinois universities as presenters: John Miller from Western Illinois and John Allison from Eastern Illinois. When asked about union dues, Allison answered off the top of his head that dues were about \$90/month for a 9-month employee. He also provided this link to the FAQ section of his union's website which addresses the dues calculation: www.eiu.edu/~EiuUpi/FAQ.htm#dues

Ever Feel Underappreciated?

ASPRO members understand the current economic situation within, and outside of, the University. But, as one ASPRO member said, "Since academic staff aren't going to be getting raises anytime soon, isn't this a good time to argue for other benefits from the university?"

The ASPRO Board agrees. UW System President Kevin Reilly has appointed a Competitive University Workforce Commission to examine issues related to salary, compensation, and other benefits received by UW faculty and academic staff relative to their peers.

We don't think ASPRO should wait for the Commission's report. What are some benefits that you would like to see awarded to the UW academic staff? Tuition remission for family members? Multiple year contracts? Opportunities for sabbaticals? Send us your ideas. We will include all of your suggestions in an on-line survey of ASPRO members. You can reach us at aspro@aspro.net.