September 23, 2011

Cincinnati State Faculty Strike

Faculty and students at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College plan to take back the campus Friday as the planned one-week strike ends.

Original post 9/23/11:

For release September 23, 2011

For more information, please contact:
Pam Ecker, Cincinnati State AAUP Communications Director
; Cincinnati State AAUP website
AAUP National Office: Jennifer Nichols

“Standing Up To The Speedup”
Statement of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
Washington, DC

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) stands fully behind the faculty members of the Cincinnati State Technical and Community College AAUP chapter in their strike to protect academic rigor and educational opportunity. In the face of unreasonable administration demands for increased workload that threaten effective instruction and student advising, Cincinnati State faculty members are standing up for the quality higher education their students and community deserve.

“We have no desire to strike, but we are not going to compromise the educational experience of our students,” said chapter president Paul Davis, a management and marketing instructor. “The College administration has argued that this increase in workload is necessary in the transition to a semester calendar and has maintained that the transition will be financially difficult for the College. This is simply untrue. Many other two-year institutions in Ohio have already transitioned to semesters, or are planning for transition next year, and have done so without radically altering faculty workload, while simultaneously preserving financial sustainability. Faculty members are committed to achieving a similar result at Cincinnati State.”
The AAUP chapter at Cincinnati State filed for bargaining early this year, but the College administration failed to come to the table until this summer. In the numerous negotiating sessions that followed, the AAUP and the administration have been unable to reach agreement concerning several issues, the most important of which is faculty workload. Both negotiating teams presented proposals on August 29 to a state-appointed fact-finder. However, the fact-finder’s suggestions for resolving workload concerns still would jeopardize the ability of Cincinnati State faculty members to deliver the academic excellence their students deserve. By a vote of 169-11, the faculty overwhelmingly rejected the fact-finder’s recommendations and authorized a strike.

AAUP President Cary Nelson commended chapter leaders and members for resisting this academic speed-up. “All our brothers and sisters in academic labor will want to stand in solidarity with the AAUP union at Cincinnati State. The administration’s draconian teaching load proposal—a load that leaves little time for advising or class preparation—accompanied by a possible wage freeze amounts to extra work without pay. In rejecting these measures, our Cincinnati State colleagues are fighting for just working conditions and quality learning conditions for all of us.”

The Ohio State Conference of the AAUP is active in the We Are Ohio coalition, which is fighting to preserve collective bargaining rights for public employees in the state. The Coalition gathered 1.3 million signatures to put repeal of Senate Bill 5—the anti-worker legislation pushed through the state legislature earlier this year—on the ballot in November as Issue 2.

“The struggle at Cincinnati State is a clear demonstration of the importance of defeating Issue 2 at the polls in Ohio this November,” noted Howard Bunsis, chair of the AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress and professor of accounting at Eastern Michigan University. “Our members are advocating on behalf of their students and standing up for their right to have a say in their working conditions. Without collective bargaining their fight for quality higher education would be that much harder. All of our AAUP unions stand behind the Cincinnati State chapter.”