

For Immediate Release

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Wright State Faculty Approve Language for Strike Authorization Procedure

The Wright State University chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP-WSU), the faculty union representing full-time faculty at WSU, adopted an amendment to its chapter constitution and bylaws creating a procedure for authorizing and calling a strike. The amendment was unanimously approved at this afternoon's chapter meeting, which had a record high attendance.

President Martin Kich said that, "We never had a procedure for calling a strike because in the past we always had a cordial relationship with the administration." He went on to say, "It is well known that an incompetent administration paired with a negligent Board of Trustees permitted flagrant misspending for several consecutive years that resulted in fiscal crisis at WSU. But even though most misspending occurred in areas irrelevant to the University's academic core missions – teaching students and undertaking research – the administration's budget cuts have actually targeted the academic core! In fact, Wright State students have already lost seventy-one faculty members due to the administration's budget cuts. That means students have fewer course offerings, higher student-to-faculty ratios, and other significant diminutions of the conditions under which they learn and complete degrees. Indeed, any erosion of faculty working conditions is an erosion of student learning conditions!"

The unprecedented move to approve the strike authorization procedure is necessary to protect the core missions of teaching and research at Wright State University. Negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement began in January but broke down in March when the Board hired an outside attorney to replace the university's chief negotiator. The union has attended two mediation sessions with a federal mediator but the university's representative refused to provide the union with any concrete proposals at those sessions. The existing contract, which expired June 30, 2017 remains in effect until after a fact-finder's report is issued. Fact-finding is scheduled for late January. A strike would be a last resort undertaken pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (state law) and is the faculty's mechanism of last resort to protect our collective bargaining rights and the core mission of the institution.

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AAUP-WSU is the exclusive collective bargaining agent for Wright State's fulltime faculty (excepting only administrators) with appointments in the university's primary academic colleges on both the Dayton and Celina campuses. [These colleges are the Colleges of Engineering and Computer Science; Education and Human Services; Liberal Arts; Nursing and Health; Science and Mathematics; the Lake Campus; and the Raj Sooin College of Business.] At present, AAUP-

WSU represents 584 faculty members. Collective bargaining for WSU tenured and tenure-eligible faculty began in spring 1998 and was expanded to include non-tenure-eligible faculty in fall 2012, both via secret ballot votes overseen by the Ohio State Employment Relations Board.