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United Academics Part-Time Faculty Bargaining Report – Feb. 17, 2009

Report # 1
February 17, 2009
Negotiations for the Part-Time Faculty Contract

The Part-Time bargaining team, composed of Beth Haggart (Art), Shelley Vermilya (CESS), Laurie Peters (Art), Jay Moore (History), David Shiman (CESS) as chief negotiator, and John Howard as our United Professions consultant, has met twice with Administration's team (Gina Bailey (Provost's Office), Lori Bello (CESS), Joel Goldberg (CAS), Beth Howard (CE), and Joe McConnell (Boston law firm of Morgan, Brown, & Joy) as chief negotiator. At the initial meeting on January 14th, at which ground rules were established, the UA team presented its three major areas of concern. These are: 1) salary, 2) benefits, particularly access to affordable health care insurance and retirement contributions, 3) job security, particularly contract length, recall rights, seniority. In addition, areas of the contract needing clarification were identified.

Faculty who responded to our survey identified these areas of concern. Coupled with our examination of other part-time contracts around the country, your feedback has been very important in this process.

At the second negotiating session on January 26th, each side identified articles that appear to require no renegotiation, e.g. academic freedom (Article 6) and other which will be almost identical to the full-time contract, e.g. anti-discrimination (Article 5), grievance and arbitration procedure (Article 12), discipline and sanctions (Article 13).

The third session is scheduled for February 17th when each side will resent several revised articles for consideration by the other side. UA will present articles on appointments and assignments (Article 14), evaluations (Article 15), workload (Article 16).

Your bargaining team will report to you regularly throughout the negotiating period. This need not be a one-way communication. Please contact us with questions or concerns you might have by writing ua_ptnt@unitedacademics.org or info@unitedacademics.org.