



The Road Scholar

WSU Union of Part-Time Faculty newsletter

UPTF Local 477
AFT / AFL-CIO

Volume 3, Issue 2
September 2009

UPTF gearing up for second year of contract

By UPTF
Communications Committee

Welcome to a new academic year sisters and brothers!

We are embarking on our second year with our hard-won contract. We've seen how alone it's difficult to fight effectively but that, working together collectively, our power continues to grow.

During the 2008-09 academic year we made successful strides in many areas many of which we continue to work on. These include:

- The payroll fightback campaign;
- Monitoring whether members have been promoted correctly;

- Enforcing the parking mandate for part-time faculty in the WSU presidential policy;

- Working on the Benefits Committee to obtain benefits for members;
- Improving the profes-

sional development funds system;

- Finalizing numerous internal UPTF administrative priorities including financial;
- Engaging in labor/community/student events and much more.

Updates

- UPTF members are eligible for up to \$700 toward registration fee, hotel expense necessary to attend a conference, and/or plane or train fare every other academic year to attend professional conferences. Log on to www.uptf.org for information about the application process.
- WSU presidential policy



UPTF Staff Organizer Bryan G. Pfeifer on the picketline with striking AAUP members at Oakland University September 4. UPTF placard reads: "In solidarity with Oakland U.'s AAUP."

Photo: Andre Martin

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Benefits Committee makes progress

By UPTF Benefits Comm.

In a fall 2007 survey members indicated that obtaining health insurance, retirement benefits, and tuition reimbursement should be a major goal of the union. This was confirmed by a follow-up member survey in January 2009.

When the UPTF Bar-

gaining Committee began its negotiations with the Wayne State administrators in November of 2007, among its goals was to achieve the benefits part-time faculty members wanted; many of which are currently enjoyed by all other faculty and full-time staff at WSU.

While the UPTF's first

contract, effective July 16, 2008, does not explicitly include a benefits package, it stipulates that a benefits committee, made up of representatives of both the UPTF and the administration, be formed. This committee was charged with meeting to discuss benefits

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**"Organize and FIGHT
— Don't starve!"**

**- 1930s slogan of the
Unemployed Councils**



Steward's Corner

By Tom Anderson
Chief Steward / Vice President

Going into the second year of the UPTF contract, we should take a moment to reflect on the achievements of the last year.

We have a contract and the second annual raise in as many years will take effect in September. In the current recession, many of our members are losing their classes, but there are clear rules to follow and the job security provisions are making a difference.

The Provost's office-with pressure from the UPTF-has also been enforcing the university's parking policy for part-time faculty since some units had gotten into the habit of ignoring the policy. Its enforcement is a welcome change.

Third, we now have a Professional Development Program that will reimburse part-time faculty up to \$700.00 for conference attendance every other year. We have also been establishing stewards all over campus. We do not yet have enough and are again appealing for volunteers. Δ

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states that part-time faculty will have parking paid for on the days we teach on the main campus. The proper funds should be deposited in your One Card account. Contact your departmental representative to verify compensation.

- At the time you sign your letter-of-offer your department is required to give you a dues allocation and membership form. You should fill these out immediately and return BOTH FORMS to your department or you can send them directly to the union office. These forms only need to be signed and submitted once.

Upcoming goals / activities

► In the upcoming 2009-10 academic year one of the top priorities for the union will be to build an ever stronger Stewards Council. Active volunteers are the lifeblood of a successful union.

Our structure for the Stewards is by department. Stewards serve as the collective voice for UPTF members in their departments and ensure that issues are addressed. You don't need any experience to be a steward. All you need is a desire to learn and an urge to help. If you are interested please contact the union office.

► Another ongoing activity of the union is classroom visits to members across the WSU and satellite campuses. Fellow members visit each other to build relationships, distribute literature and to mobilize for un-

ion events. If you'd like to participate contact the union office. During these visits we also distribute UPTF travel mugs, pens and buttons which are also available at the office. Members are encouraged to wear your UPTF button frequently. All of this helps to build a UPTF presence on campus.

► The UPTF will be joining our sisters and brothers from other AFT Michigan affiliates at the Collective Bargaining and Contract Enforcement conference in Troy Saturday, September 26. There will be a series of all-day workshops designed to enhance our skills at bargaining, building support for, and enforcing our contract. If you'd like to attend contact the union office. For more detailed information see: www.aftmichigan.org.

Solidarity update

All across the United States, part-time faculty are organizing for dignity, respect and justice. The AFT Michigan has been leading the way nationally with numerous successful organizing drives and first contract campaigns over the past few years. Just this spring and summer the Adjunct Faculty Organization (AFO) at Henry Ford Community College signed its first contract and the Union of Non-Tenure Faculty (UNTF) at Michigan State and the Professional Instructors Organization (PIO) at Western Michigan University voted in their new unions and are now embark-

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Union Council Upcoming Meetings

- Friday, September 25, 12 Noon
- Friday, October 9, 12 Noon
- Friday, October 30, 12 Noon

All meetings held at the UPTF office

All members are welcome

In consultation with and on behalf of the membership, the Union Council directs the day-to-day operations of the union and implements members' decisions.



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for part-time faculty at Wayne State and making a recommendation to Provost Nancy Barrett by summer 2009.

The Benefits Committee met for the first time on November 7, 2008 and has met throughout the 2008-2009 academic year. The committee in August forwarded its benefits proposal to the Provost. Once the Provost and WSU President Jay Noren sign off on the committee's proposal, it will be in full force and effect and eligible members may access benefits. At the October 16 membership meeting there will be updates. Δ

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ing on first contract campaigns.

The Graduate Employee Organizing Committee (GEOC) and the AAUP-AFT at Wayne State just signed new contracts and graduate employees at Central Michigan University voted in their union in May. All of these are affiliated with AFT Michigan.

And in a major historic victory in our neighboring state of Wisconsin, Governor Jim Doyle signed that

states' biennial budget in June. That budget includes a provision extending collective bargaining rights to more than 20,000 University of Wisconsin (UW) faculty, academic staff and research assistants. This victory, over 40 years in the making, was due to the mobilizing power of the AFT Wisconsin and its labor and community allies across the state and nationally.

Δ† **Together, we win!** Δ†

AFT Benefits

UPTF members are eligible

Because the UPTF is affiliated with the AFT (American Federation of Teachers), UPTF members are eligible for the many member benefits offered by the AFT, including discounted insurance rates. For instance, the AFT offers a Limited Supplemental Medical Plan for \$62.35 per month for individual members. This plan has no deductibles and no preexisting condition limitations.

Other AFT benefits include:

- Discounted life insurance, long-term care insurance, car insur-

ance, home insurance, and renters' insurance;

- Free 30-minute legal consultations;
- Free credit counseling;
- Health club discounts;
- Discounts on theme park admissions, car rental, and hotel rates

To find out about all of the AFT benefits that you are entitled to, pick up an AFT Member Benefits booklet outside the UPTF office on the 3rd floor of 5057 Woodward (the Maccabees building) or go to: www.aftbenefits.org Δ

"I realize that if I wait until I am no longer afraid to act, write, speak, be, I'll be sending messages on a Ouija board, cryptic complaints from the other side."

— Audre Lorde —

Rally in Sterling Heights

Protest Chrysler's plant closings !

Stop the devastation of our communities!

September 25, 2009

Rally starts at 2:30 p.m.

Program starts at 3:30 p.m.

In front of Chrysler's

Sterling Heights Assembly Plant

3811 Van Dyke in Sterling Heights

West Side of Van Dyke Avenue

North of I6 mile road

UAW Local 700 / 313-893-0300 / uaw1700.com

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“Everyone.... has their own particular part to play. No part is too great or too small; no one is too old or too young to do something.”

— Bobby Sands —

UPTF General Membership Meeting Friday, October 16, 2009

3—4:30 p.m.

Walter Reuther Library at WSU
5401 Cass Avenue
2nd Floor Conference Room

- ▶ Union Council & Committee Reports
 - ▶ Steward Council updates
 - ▶ Organizing updates
 - ▶ Discussion

— Beverages and pizza provided —