

John Caserta, Chair, Crisis Committee

How Things Are Playing Out?

Dear Colleagues,

With just 12 days left until **Monday, August 27th**, the first day of classes, the news is far from good. Your team met with the mediator, Fred Vocino, for the first time for nearly 8 hours Tuesday, August 14th. The University's team was in one room; we were in another, with the mediator meeting with each team individually throughout the day.

Your team, again, crafted reasonable positions on the economic issues and health care for the mediator to take to Eisler's team. By the end of the day, again, there was no movement or any kind of a counter offer from Eisler. Eisler and Jim Greene have not moved from their initial position, and our hope of receiving any kind of reasonable offer from them is dismal. All the while, Eisler, who has not appeared at any negotiations, continues to pay Greene tens of thousands of dollars of university money to do his dirty work and to screw you. As I mentioned in a previous post, Greene is not part of our university community. He does not care about you or your families.

Your team is frustrated and angry. The final bargaining meetings before classes begin are scheduled for Thursday, August 23rd and Friday, August 24th.

At the Faculty Luncheon on Monday, August 20th, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM (UCB-202), Charles Bacon and the team will present an update. There will also be an update from the Crisis Committee and the job actions we will be taking between now and August 27th.

For now the calendar looks like this:

Thursday, August 16th, emergency FFA E-Board meeting from 5:00 - 6:30 PM at the MEA office at 1215 Maple Street. A motion will be made at the meeting asking the E-Board to authorize a "strike vote." Following the meeting, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM, we are asking faculty to meet at the MEA office to make signs for the picketing to follow the Faculty Luncheon.

Monday, August 20th, informational picketing from 1:00 - 2:00 PM immediately following the Faculty Luncheon. Signs will be provided.

Thursday, August 23rd, scheduled bargaining from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.
Informational picketing from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Faculty meet at the University Center.
Crisis Committees from the FFA and the MEA meet from 1:00 - 4:00 PM.

Friday, August 24th, scheduled bargaining from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.
Informational picketing from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Faculty will meet at the University Center.
Crisis Committees from the FFA and the MEA meet from 1:00 - 4:00 PM.

Saturday, August 25th, emergency FFA membership meeting from 4:00 - 9:00 PM in Williams Auditorium. The team will give a final update on negotiations to be followed by a vote to authorize a strike. There will be a report from the Crisis Committee explaining strike preparations and the schedule. Please mark your calendars for the meeting. It is imperative that you make every effort to attend.

August 27th — NO CONTRACT - NO WORK?

Your bargaining team has spent many hours over the past nine months in preparations and in negotiations with the hope of delivering a fair contract for you and your families. At every turn Eisler has thwarted our efforts. It appears he has no interest in respecting the hard work and contributions of the faculty on behalf of our students and the university community.

It is time for you to step forward and give a few hours of time in support of your team by making signs and engaging in picketing. We are all in this together.

The team wishes to thank all of you who have sent messages of support. Now is the time to put those words into actions. FFA United.

Sincerely,
John