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February 9, 2018 - From the President’s Desk

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Dear Campus Community,

I'm writing to provide an update on the negotiation process between Wright State University and faculty members represented by AAUP-WSU. Wright State University representatives, under the auspices of the Board of Trustees, are engaged in negotiations with faculty union leadership. The parties have reached tentative agreements on many of the articles for the next contract, though several articles remain unresolved and are under discussion.

Last week, the parties were set to begin a phase of negotiations known as fact finding. In that phase, an independent arbitrator, known as a fact finder, listens to positions from both the university and the faculty union on issues where agreement has not yet been reached and ultimately produces a recommendation for how the outstanding contract issues should be resolved.

In light of the progress already made in previous mediation meetings, the fact finder recommended that both parties go back to mediation to further address outstanding issues, with the assistance of the fact finder acting as a mediator, before fact finding would commence. Both the university and the faculty union agreed with this recommendation, and additional progress was made last week.

At this time, the university is not engaged in fact finding. The fact-finding procedure that had been scheduled for January 30 and February 1 has been rescheduled to April 3 and 4.

The fact finder also shared that he will not issue his report of recommendations until April 19, and based on that, the fact-finding process will not conclude until the end of April. In the event that both parties do not ratify the contract, they will return to final negotiations.

Classes, graduation, and other university activities are expected to proceed as normally scheduled for the entirety of the spring semester.

I know that for many of you, the results of this process have been on your minds. Know this: no matter what happens, our students' hard work and progress toward their academic goals will not be impeded nor will our students be prevented from receiving credit for the classes they are taking or from graduating on schedule. Maintaining the quality of our academic programs and preserving the opportunity for our students to achieve their goals, I believe, continues to be the highest priority of everyone at Wright State University.

At the same time, as a university, we are facing our challenges. We are meeting them head-on in a way that allows us to offer an excellent education for our students—thanks in large part to the efforts of our dedicated faculty and
staff.

We are emerging stronger as a university by harnessing our collective pride in Wright State, and by transforming the lives of the students who trust us with their time and treasure. It is only together that we will reach our fullest potential.

Warmest regards,

Cheryl B. Schrader, Ph.D.
President