

From: WIU Contract Administrator Russ Morgan
Subject: Mediation Update: A Sustainable Across-the-Board Agreement

There are expectations from the state and higher education governing boards that Illinois public universities must continue to reduce expenses as a result of declining state appropriations and revenue. For example, the Illinois Board of Higher Education recently voted to submit a conservative higher education budget plan to the state legislature.

The University is working diligently to reach an agreement with the WIU chapter of University Professionals of Illinois (UPI), while striving to remain fiscally responsible.

In spite of the University's work toward an agreement with the UPI, it is discouraging when UPI leadership continues to paint an inaccurate picture of the on-the-record proposal, picking and choosing only pieces of the proposal – or summarizing in their terms - to fit their narratives. Presenting inaccurate and incomplete information – such as the most recent narrative from the UPI leadership that the faculty will not receive another across-the-board increase throughout their entire career – is misleading and blatantly false. The proposed contract term is five years. As shared in last week's communication, even during the term of the contract, if enrollment increases and additional state dollars are allocated, the University is open to engaging in conversations to address the compensation of our employees.

The University is working toward an agreement that is more equitable across the board. To omit information, such as the positive effects that the new University proposal will have for many faculty in regard to promotion and summer school, to name a few, is not fair to its membership and hinders the mediation process.

Mediation is continuing, with additional dates set for Feb. 15 and Feb. 28. The University continues in its commitment to engage in good faith negotiations.

For further updates, visit wiu.edu/provost/negotiationsupdate.php.