

From: WIU Contract Administrator and Associate Provost Russ Morgan
Re: Strike Authorization Vote
Date: April 18, 2018

A majority of Western Illinois University faculty have voted to authorize a strike, and that an intent to strike may be filed with the University's Board of Trustees. A strike authorization does not mean a strike will occur, and we hope a strike can be avoided.

If a strike should occur, it is the University's intent to continue classes as scheduled and continue WIU's mission of providing a quality education to its students. With approximately three weeks remaining in the Spring 2018 semester, we understand the importance to the students of staying on track, particularly for those set to graduate next month.

It is our hope that a tentative agreement is reached prior to an intent to strike being filed or the union initiating a strike. An additional mediation session has been scheduled for April 23. Negotiations have been taking place since October 2016, and a federal mediator has been working with both sides since October 30, 2017. The University administration requested mediation in September 2017 after 10 months of stalled negotiations. The latest on the record proposal may be found at wiu.edu/provost/negotiationsupdate.php.

We are hopeful that mediation will lead to a sustainable and fiscally responsible agreement with UPI Local 4100. We urge our faculty to remain in the classroom and to remain committed to their students.