



U Strike Bulletin

Sept. 13, 2007 • Day 9 • U OF M AFSCME Health Care, Technical and Clerical Strike

More Legislators Support Striking U Workers

In the bulletin two days ago, we reprinted letters to Pres. Bruininks from some key legislators, in support of striking U workers. Today we print letters from more legislators who support U workers. This shows the increasing pressure on the U administration to give us a fair contract.

These letters show that the U administration is increasingly isolated. We need to keep the picket lines strong – our strike for economic justice is gaining support every day.

Letter from Sen. Linda Berglin

Dear President Bruininks:

Today I write in support of the clerical, health care, and technical employees who are asking for a raise to keep up with the cost of living. They deserve such a raise and it should come above and beyond their step increases. In the past session, the Legislature increased the University's budget by 12%. This increase was intended in part to allow for a cost of living increase to keep up with inflation. Please come back to the bargaining table with AFSCME soon and arrive at a fair and just settlement that will allow these workers to keep pace with inflation and retain a high quality workforce at the University of Minnesota.

Sincerely,
Linda Berglin, State Senator, District #61

Solidarity Corner

- U.S. Senator Barack Obama moved a large event scheduled at the U this Saturday to an off campus location, to avoid crossing our picket lines. He then sent a statement to Pres. Bruininks, which said in part, "I strongly encourage you to take the steps necessary to end this strike and make the University of Minnesota a place that respects all of its workers. I will continue to monitor this situation, and I look forward to your favorable reply."
- The Minnesota Orchestra postponed an event scheduled on campus yesterday so as to not cross our picket lines. They are members of a musicians union.

Letter from Rep. Jeanne Poppe

Dear President Bruininks:

In the most recent legislative session, the Legislature increased the University's budget by 12%. Certainly there are needs to be addressed with this increase, most importantly for salary packages for employees. This increase was intended in part to allow for a COLA to keep up with inflation.

I support the 3,500 clerical, health care, and technical employees who are asking for a raise to keep up with the cost of living. These workers deserve a COLA above and beyond their step increases. The commendable service these employees provide is in large part a reason for the smooth operation and student satisfaction for which the University is so proud.

Please return with AFSCME to the bargaining table as soon as possible and arrive at a fair and just settlement that will allow these workers to keep pace with inflation and retain a high quality workforce at the University of Minnesota.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Poppe, State Representative

Upcoming Activities of Interest

**Student Rally in Support of U Workers
Thursday – Noon – Coffman**

**Mass Strikers Meeting at Strike HQ
Friday – 10:30 am**

Didja Know?

- Dr. Date declared Monday, Sept 10 "Kiss a Hot Striker Monday" because, he said, "There are so many hot strikers that the sidewalks of our University look like model runways."

**Strike Headquarters: University Baptist Church, 1219 University Ave. 612-378-3750
Hotline 612-234-8772 • afscme3937.org • afscme3800.org • afscme3260@gmail.com**

Songs from the Picket Lines

This adaptation of the Beastie Boys' "Fight for your Right (to Party)" was written by Dave Linton, a West Bank striker.

Fight for your Right (to Fair Pay)

You're workin' at the U. trying to make it great
'Cause you think that education is important to the state.
You tell 'em that your wages have been eaten by inflation
While they gave all the raises to the administration
You gotta Fight
For your Right
To Fair Pay!

Your landlord came to say he raised the rent,
And prices goin' higher - more than 3 percent.
The legislature gave the U. a whole lotta dough;
We asked for a share but they just said "NO!"
You gotta Fight
For your Right
To Fair Pay!

We came to the table ready for negotiation,
But it's "Take it or Leave it!" from the administration.
They're dissin' all these workers - man, they've got some nerve!
We're gonna fight until we get what we deserve
You gotta Fight
For your Right
To Fair Pay!



Strike Haiku Corner

Picket at sunrise.
10,000 steps walked today.
New wellness program.

(inspired by Brian S., E. Bank dock picketer)

Send your strike haikus to:
SecretStrikeEmail@gmail.com



Noon Rally on Wednesday brought students and strikers together on Washington Bridge.



Are you in a bad spot financially while you're on strike? Contact the Mutual Support Committee for advice and possible financial help. Email mutualsupport@afscme3800.org

Ask your friends, family and non-union co-workers to donate to the U Workers Support Fund. Donate online at www.uworkers.org or mail a check to U Workers Support Fund, 1313 5th St SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414