

LACK OF NEGOTIATIONS^v PROGRESS REPORT

U OF M UNIVERSITY UNIONS UNITED



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We can't survive on ~~1%~~ 1.5%

At the end of the day Wednesday (the last scheduled day of mediation), management finally moved their across-the-board wage proposal from 1% to 1.5%. This is all they could do in three days of mediation.

Rather than wrapping up negotiations this week, management has drawn out the process, and negotiations will resume in late September, which is the next

time the mediator is available.

The three AFSCME unions remain united in fighting for a dignified wage increase and a fair contract. We will spend the next month talking to members and building a campaign in the workplace.

While management finally made some movement, they did the minimum possible by moving to 1.5%. Do you think that's enough? ☉

No increases in health premiums?

On August 9, 2005 at the Health Insurance Negotiation Table, the University Administration said the Unions had it wrong. The administration said that Union workers' wages weren't eaten up by the wage freeze and the increase in health insurance costs.

Look at your own take-home pay from two years ago, and look at it today. For many people, it has stayed even or dropped. The lump sum the clerical workers got the last contract did NOT offset the increased costs most of them experienced.

Think of the increases in gasoline prices over the last two years. The *Pioneer Press* said recently that heating costs were rising 30% this year, with the average household paying \$1,000 per year.

These costs are annoyances to people making large salaries. For nearly 86% of AFSCME and Teamster members, who earn less than \$40,000 per year, these kinds of increases in expenses often make the difference between having to take an extra job, or not going to the Doctor or getting a prescription someone in the family needs.



We invite you to go to the link www.afscme3800.org/3800/files/voices.pdf to read real *Voices in the Workplace* and read just how difficult to make ends meet it has become for many of us. Then you decide who is right.

You can call or email Patti Dion with your opinion at 612-624-6508 or dionx003@umn.edu.

Last Fall, the University Administration said there would be no cost shifting onto employees.

They deceived us!

This statement of theirs led many to believe that health insurance costs would not go up. In reality however, the administration is proposing actual health care increases in the double digits. Look at their own health care page. The administration thinks you can absorb these costs of potentially 18%-33%. Send an email or call Patti Dion and tell her whether you can absorb these costs.

Look for more detailed information coming from AFSCME in the coming days on economic and health care insurance proposals. ☉