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Accord nears on GTFs' load

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Of the Emerald

Negotiators for the University and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation approached agreement on workload at a bargaining session Tuesday but failed to lessen the gap separating the parties on GTF salaries.

At the meeting — actually a mediation session in which a state Employment Relations Board official shuttled offers and counter-proposals between the two negotiating teams housed in separate rooms of the EMU — the University presented its compromise workload proposal.

The new offer designates 150 hours per term or 450 hours per nine-month academic year as the standard workload for GTFs holding .3 FTE (full-time equivalent) appointments. A majority of University GTFs are employed at the .3 FTE level.

University negotiators also proposed contract language covering workload for GTFs teaching during summer term. The proposal would allow University departments and their respective GTFs to determine summer workload standards "by mutual agreement."

Union negotiators agree to the 150-hour standard as well as the University's provisions for summer workload, according to Bill Ratteree, GTFF vice president and chief negotiator. However, the two sides still are discussing the specific working of the clauses, he added.

Ratteree reported the University "made no movement" on its present salary offer and that the issue of strike clause language wasn't even discussed.

Both negotiating teams are tying final contract settlement to agreement on a "package" of items consisting of salaries, reappointments, strike clause, workload and child care. Resolution of one issue cannot be termed "agreement" until all five issues in the package are settled, according to Bill Lemman, the University's chief negotiator.

With the union's acceptance in principle of the University's workload proposal, differences on salaries and strike clause language block resolution of the year-long labor dispute.

On salaries, the GTFF already has accepted offers for two retroactive raises of 4.25 percent for September 1977 and 4 percent for April 1978.

The University also is offering the choice between a 5 percent hike effective Sept. 15 and a 6 percent increase slated for Dec. 1. Since the publication of a fact finder's report on the dispute, the University has added to its salary

offer a proposal for a \$25,000 extra-contractual fund, compiled from private sources, to help GTFs offset the cost of medical care.

In addition to the two retroactive raises, the Union is demanding an across-the-board hike of \$40 per month that would enable GTFs to purchase private health insurance.

The University offer represents a total increase of almost 14 percent, while the union demand amounts to a raise of more than 19 percent. However, in terms of the actual number of dollars each GTF would gain, the University is offering a maximum increase of almost 10 percent and the GTFF more than 13 percent, depending on a GTF's appointment level and length of employment.

The fact finder recommended adoption of the union's version of a strike clause, a common item in labor contracts by which the union agrees not to strike during the agreement's life.

However, the fact finder deleted from the union strike clause a sentence stipulating that the article would not prevent GTFs from crossing another union's primary picket line. The GTFF brought the sentence back to the table after the University rejected the fact finder's report.

The University has agreed to union demands for reappointment standards and to create an extra-contractual commission to investigate ways to improve child care at the University.

Another mediation session is scheduled for next Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Meanwhile, the GTFF is gearing up for its second strike vote, to be held Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom.

The union will conduct absentee balloting today in the EMU lobby from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., GTFF president Charles Aker said. GTFF members may also vote absentee today and Thursday at the union's office, located at 868 E. 13th Ave. above the Red Rooster Barber Shop, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except when balloting is being conducted in the EMU.

GTFF leaders expect greater member participation in the upcoming vote than occurred in the first meeting, when 59 union members did not take part in the election.

"I think it's going to pass," Ratteree said.

At the meeting last Thursday, strike supporters fell 14 votes short of a walkout ratification when 230 of 366 members voted "yes." Union bylaws required at least 244 votes to allow the union's executive council to call a strike.



Photo by Doug Williams

Painter Dave Lowry prepares the Collier House, formerly known as the Faculty Club, for its facelift. The white Victorian building, which has been given historic status by the City of Eugene, is undergoing restoration and will soon be cloaked in the colors of its youth. "It's kind of a beige, with very dark green trim — it looks like black," says Ray Hawk, University vice president for administration and finance. Hawk says the Physical Plant took paint chips from the building to determine its original color. Currently a luncheon restaurant, the Collier House was built in 1886 by chemistry and physics prof. George Collier as his residence. Following his death, the house served as the home for several University presidents, then as a rooming house for bachelor faculty members, and in the late 50s it became the Faculty Club.

VA rep's removal asked

The regional Veterans Administration office has recommended the withdrawal of veterans' campus representatives. This was one feature of a budget proposal recently submitted to the VA central office in Washington, D.C., a Portland official told the Oregon Veterans Civic Council (OVCC) Tuesday.

Bill Cade, veterans services director for the regional office, said budget constraints have made it necessary to seek permission to centralize representatives in the Portland office.

Cade said his staff, which is responsible for services to campuses, hospitals, veterans' dependents and veterans unable to care for themselves, must be reduced from 71 to 63 employees.

"If I'm going to have 63 people to work with, how can I best use them?" he asked. "That would be a reduction in the vet rep program," he answered.

Cade said the regional office

has informed individual campus representatives that they may lose their positions as early as Feb. 1, 1979. "We still don't know if and when it may happen," he added.

But he admitted later that the regional office need only wait approval from the central office before halting the campus representative program.

"Given the cut we would have to have, we'd like to have at least four representatives . . . and we'd like those four vet reps in Portland," he explained.

Though the regional office may centralize staff in Portland, it is required by law to provide certain services to student veterans, Cade said.

OVCC Pres. Gary Koppang read aloud part of a letter the organization recently sent the VA central office protesting the elimination of campus representatives.

The OVCC — a group of city, county and state administrators

working with veterans — also offered to work with the VA to develop an alternative to cutting the representative program.

Cade assured members the regional office would give individual campuses notice as far in advance as possible before removing representatives.

Chris Munoz, of the University registrar's office, met with Cade yesterday morning to discuss the future of the campus representative program.

Cade warned Munoz that the program may be entirely lost by February, he said. "I don't think we would have had even this much lead time if people hadn't bitched about it," he mused.

Munoz said he doubts the University will be able to provide the kind of services now performed by the campus representative.

"It all comes down to how the individual veterans feel and what they're going to do about this," he added.

today

U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver and Republican challenger Jerry Lausmann faced off Tuesday during a debate in the EMU. Details on **Page 3A**.

Harry Edwards, the controversial spokesman for black athletes, spoke last night before a crowd in the EMU. Read about it on **Page 2B**, and also read about athletic scholarships in today's sports supplement.

Neighborhood cooperation in deterring crime is featured on **Page 6A**.