

OPEU

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OUS administrators that continues months after the two groups resolved this summer's often intense contract negotiations.

"Maybe they think we're only going to communicate with each other when we're on strike," said Star Holmberg, American English Institute office worker.

According to Knight Library circulation clerk Ellen Klaastad, this is the second time the insurance dividends have been delayed.

"At first they said mid-December; then they recanted and bumped it back to January," Klaastad said. "Now they've bumped it back again."

The dividends, compiled from unspent insurance reserves, weren't distributed by the Feb. 1 deadline because OUS was bogged down processing W-2 tax forms, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Bill Anslow said. The money, averaging \$200 per employee, will in-

stead be included in OPEU members' Feb. 29 paychecks, he said.

What irks OPEU members most, however, is that all other state employees entitled to the dividends have already received them, Holmberg said.

"This is part of an ongoing pattern of the state not respecting its own employees," Cheri Smith, a computer information sciences office specialist, said. "Maybe it's academic prejudice."

After meeting outside Campbell Hall on the rainy Friday afternoon, the protesters crammed into the building's lobby and sang a song composed for the occasion titled "We're not gonna let it slide." The song included the lyrics: "The rest of the state got paid on time — we're not gonna let it slide. When are ya gonna start keeping your word? We're not gonna let it slide."

University employee relations manager Mark Zunich said the passionate nature of relations between the OPEU and OUS is to be expected.

"Labor negotiations are generally pretty tense," he said.

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