

OPEU TIMELINE

A tentative contract agreement reached Friday between OUS and classified workers of Oregon's public universities averted a strike that would have scaled back campus services. A look back at the five months of negotiations shows it was a rocky road:

April 11 Negotiations begin for terms of final two years of four-year contract.

July 20 A mediator from the Oregon Employment Relations Board is called in to facilitate negotiations.

Aug. 6 The union declares impasse. The move forces both sides to make final proposals within seven days.

Aug. 13 Final offers are exchanged.

Sept. 6 Unhappy with OUS's final offer, the unions take a strike vote. More than 95 percent of classified workers vote to strike.

Sept. 13 OUS files an "unfair labor practice" complaint, charging that the unions failed to declare a strike date.

Sept. 13 OUS makes a modified final offer to classified workers.

Sept. 14 Unions send a letter to OUS declaring they will strike Sept. 24 unless a tentative agreement is reached.

Sept. 14 OUS withdraws its "unfair labor practice" complaint.

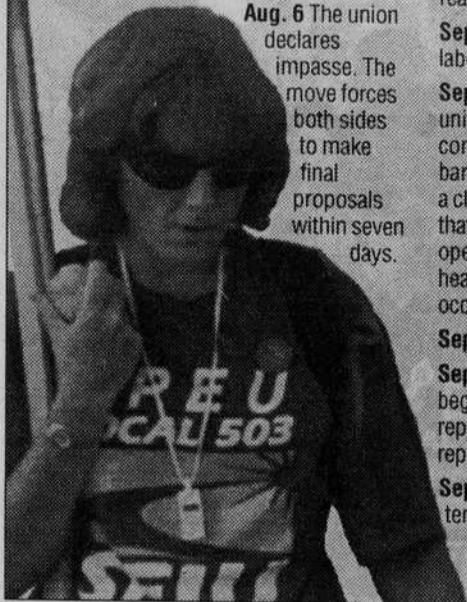
Sept. 18 The classified workers' unions file an unfair labor practice complaint, charging OUS with bargaining in bad faith by including a clause in its modified final offer that would have empowered OUS to open negotiations on wages and health benefits if a budget shortfall occurred.

Sept. 19 OUS retracts the clause.

Sept. 20 A flurry of bargaining talks begin via telephone between OUS representatives, union representatives and a mediator.

Sept. 21 The two sides reach a tentative contract agreement.

Source: SEIU Local 503



Emerald

OPEU strike

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they were optimistic a resolution could be reached Friday, but both began readying their ranks for a strike.

Classified workers of the University held a bake sale at the south end of the University Bookstore on Wednesday to raise money for a strike fund, and OUS was briefing managers and supervisors Wednesday about how to cover for classified workers who didn't report to work.

"I have asked departments at the colleges to prepare plans which identify those activities that absolutely have to go on, and how they will be covered by existing personnel," University Human Resources Director Linda King said early Friday.

day.

King said child-care facilities at the University would have closed during the strike, leaving about 170 families scrambling to find daycare services. The University Health Center also was preparing to restrict its services to students who had emergencies or had appointments scheduled prior to Sept. 24.

The tentative agreement, finalized at 1 p.m. Friday in Salem, calls for a 2 percent cost-of-living wage increase on Jan. 1, 2002, and a 3 percent increase on Feb. 1, 2003. The plan includes annual step increases and fully paid health coverage for full-time employees in 2002 and 2003.

The "unfair labor practice" complaint filed by the unions Tuesday charging that the OUS was not bargaining in good faith will be withdrawn,

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