



U Strike Bulletin

Sept. 4, 2007 • The Day Before • U OF M AFSCME Health Care, Technical and Clerical Strike

Standing Up and Striking for Our Standard of Living

U Strike Starts on Wednesday

On Wednesday, September 5 at 7:00 a.m., we the workers at the U of M are walking off our jobs. We're going on strike to stand up for our standard of living. Clerical, technical and health care workers at the U of M are united. We are striking for economic justice and for dignity and respect.

We're fighting to stop the value of our jobs from continuing to slide behind inflation. We're fighting to be treated with respect in negotiations and in our workplace. We're fighting to preserve our step increases that the U administration is going after for the third round of negotiations in a row.

When we make the point that other public workers in Minnesota got 3.25% across-the-board increases this year, the U administration barrages our email inboxes with misleading information designed to discredit and confuse us. They say they are "mystified" by our refusal to accept lower wages than other public sector workers in Minnesota this year.

It's not mystifying to us – most of us live paycheck to paycheck, and we're standing up for our standard of living. We voted "NO" to the U's crummy offer and to their cheap propaganda designed to confuse the public and vilify their lowest paid workers.

Going on strike is never an easy decision. We are losing pay and many of us are doing something we've never done before. A strike is the weapon of last resort that working people have. We don't want to strike – we want a fair contract with economic justice and dignity.

The U administration says that in a strike "nobody wins". We don't agree. We know for sure that if we don't go on strike, then we lose. If we go on strike, we may be able to win a fair contract. We are already winning widespread support. We're showing we can't be treated like this without fighting back.



The administration says they don't have the money. We know this is false. Bruininks said the U got a generous allocation from the state this year. The legislature even gave the U extra money for staff salaries (thanks to AFSCME's lobbying at the *continued on back...*

JOIN US ON THE PICKET LINES!

**Picket Locations – Starting 7 a.m.
Wednesday, Sep. 5**

West Bank: HHH turn-around
(19th Ave S & 3rd St S)

East Bank / Med Area: Washington
Ave & Union St

East Bank / Dinkytown: Donhowe
Building (University Ave & 15th Ave S)

St. Paul Campus: Student Center

Also: CUHCC and 29th & Como

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

Support for U of M Workers

As we are about to strike, U workers already have a lot of support. Here are a few examples.

- The heads of nineteen departments in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) signed a public letter to President Bruininks, supporting U of M AFSCME workers.
- Many Professors and Teaching Assistants are refusing to cross our picket lines. They are defying administration threats and moving their classes off campus that would include over 3,000 students so far.
- State Senator Sandy Pappas, State Senator Patricia Torres Rey, and Minneapolis City Council member Gary Schiff have spoken out in support of U of M AFSCME workers.
- Graduate Students in the Department of Communications Studies signed a letter supporting U of M AFSCME workers.

Strike Starts September 5

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capitol). Just days after they told us there's no more money, they offered the Teamsters 3% across-the-board increases plus steps. The money is there.

The U is all about its image. We are some of the lowest paid workers at the U and we're not being treated right. The last thing the U wants is to have their misdeeds exposed to the world.

We're losing ground while President Bruininks and top administrators are reaping huge windfalls. It's not right, and the administration can change the situation.

We're ready to go back to the negotiating table at any time to settle this contract fairly. Unfortunately the U has forced us to strike to get there.

We are standing up for our standard of living and for economic justice. We have a lot of support both inside and outside the U. We are doing the right thing, and we will win!

Join us for a STRIKE SUPPORT RALLY Wed., Sep 5 – Noon Morrill Hall

Join Us On the Picket Lines

We need everyone to participate in our strike. A union's strength is determined by member involvement. You are the Union. We must all stand up and fight together.

Crossing the picket line and going to work hurts not only the strike and the union, but the person crossing too. It can extend the strike and it makes it harder to get the kind of contract we need. The Union is us. United we stand, divided we fall.

The University is offering us a lower general wage increase than they gave to any other employee group. It is lower than what was allocated for wage increases in the appropriation from the State Legislature. They are doing this because they think that our members won't stand up and fight.

We have to prove the University wrong. We have to demonstrate to them that we have dignity and we are willing to stand up to their disrespect and demand that we be treated fairly. We urge you to join us. The future of our unions and our standard of living for years to come is at stake.

If you have concerns about how you are going to pay your bills if you strike, contact our Mutual Support Committee. Funds are being raised precisely to help members with critical bills. The committee can be contacted at mutualsupport@afscme3800.org. Please contact them if you don't know if you can afford to strike.



Union supporters and members rallied together on Northrop Mall on August 30th.

Are you in a bad spot financially while your'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