



U Strike Bulletin

Sept. 10, 2007 • Day 6 • U OF M AFSCME Health Care, Technical and Clerical Strike

Strike Still Strong Heading into Week Two

Our strike for a fair contract and economic justice continues strong. Our picket lines – the heart of the strike – remain strong. Some of the most powerful politicians in the state are openly calling on Bruininks to give us a fair wage and settle the contract. Elizabeth Edwards, Al Franken, Mike Ciresi, and other important figures have spoken at our rallies and walked our picket lines.

Other unions are walking our picket lines and sending thousands of dollars to our strike fund. Large numbers of professors and students are supporting our strike. Classes including over 4,000 students are going to be held off campus this week to honor our picket lines (defying administration threats against profs). On Friday the Regents prematurely ended their meeting, fled the room (all except one of them), and had five people arrested to avoid dealing with students and community members demanding they offer us a fair contract.

Our strikers' rally at 11:00 a.m. on Friday brought together hundreds of us from picket lines around the U. Our picket lines are tightening up at loading docks around campus, causing delays with incoming shipments. We're standing strong!

**Pickers Lunch Gathering
Monday 12:30
Outside Walter Library (East Bank)**

Business as Usual - Not!

One example: here is text from an official email sent out by Karen Triplett of Purchasing Services on 9/7/07, titled "Incoming Shipments of Purchases During the Strike":

PERSONAL ITEMS

It seems that many personal purchases have been shipped to University office locations. Personal shipments contribute to delays for legitimate departmental deliveries, so please do not order personal items to be delivered to your office.

UPS DELIVERIES MAY BE DELAYED

The regular UPS drivers are under union restrictions that will not allow them to cross picket lines. UPS has added additional management personnel to deliver packages, but there still may be delays in delivery. Some packages will be dropped off at University Stores if there are significant problems with these deliveries. These packages could be delayed for longer periods.



Over 100 student and community members put the Regents on the spot on Friday.



Friday Strikers Rally Raises Spirits

Politicians Support U Workers!

Last week, many key state legislators spoke out strongly in support of U of M workers. This has isolated the Bruininks administration and clearly shown that the legislature gave the U the money to give us a raise comparable to what state workers received. Here is the letter that Tom Rukavina and Mary Murphy sent to Bruininks and the Regents:

Dear President Bruininks and Members of the Board of Regents:

It is sad that we have to write this letter. We are deeply disappointed that thousands of University employees have been forced onto the picket lines due to the unwillingness of the University Administration to provide adequate contact settlements for its clerical, technical and health care workers. For the first time in many years, the Minnesota Legislature provided the University with a generous 3.25 percent salary supplement. We expected those funds to be used to benefit all University employees. We can't understand how you can justify your miniscule offer of 2.25 percent on the salary schedule for your hard working, dedicated employees.

It is painful for us to watch our friends, many of whom we helped win election to the Board of Regents, turn their backs on the working men and women of the University of Minnesota. After approving a 17.5 percent two-year increase in the President's salary, how can you justify offering your lowest paid employees a mere 2.25 percent increase per year. Think about it - the President's first year raise of \$38,000 is more than the average annual salary of your striking workers.

President Bruininks, you appeared before our Division earlier this year asking for adequate funding to attract and retain the best employees possible. Despite tremendous pressure from the Governor to reduce your total appropriation, we gave you and the University what we felt you needed to remain competitive. Now we ask you to do the same. Give your employees the increase that they need so that they will continue to be the productive, hard working employees we have come to know and respect at the University of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Tom Rukavina, Chair, Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division

Mary Murphy, Chair, Education Finance and Economic Competitiveness Finance Division

**Strike Headquarters: University Baptist Church, 1219 University Ave. 612-378-3750
Hotline 612-234-8772 • afscme3937.org • afscme3800.org • afscme3260@gmail.com**



On the way to the Rally.



At the rally, one St. Paul Striker announced from stage, "We're sunburnt, we're blistered, and we've never been happier ..."



1100 Washington stronghold.



Across the street from Donhowe Building.



Vet Techs are out strong on the St. Paul Campus.

More Politicians Support U Workers!

Dear President Bruininks,

Thank you for making yourself available recently to discuss the University of Minnesota's contract negotiations with the AFSCME locals representing 3,500 clerical, technical and health care workers employed by the University of Minnesota campuses. I am writing today because I am greatly concerned by the current bargaining impasse and the breakdown of meaningful negotiations.

I respectfully request that you encourage the University's appointed negotiators to resume constructive, good faith negotiations with AFSCME's negotiating teams.

During the 2007 Legislative Session, the legislature appropriated funds to the University of Minnesota after lengthy committee discussions with the implicit intent of a reasonable salary supplement to improve the standard of living of workers facing inflationary pressures.

Frontline workers at the University of Minnesota deserve respect and a fair contract. Again, I encourage you to bring your negotiators back to the table with additional resources and to find a compromise that honors those workers that serve the University of Minnesota, its students, and the public.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me at my office at 651-296-0171.

Sincerely,

Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Speaker, Minnesota House of Representatives



Saint Paul Campus, outside of Baily. Down the street, Social Services faculty are holding classes off campus, and spending time on the picket lines.



The Cheerleaders of Cleveland and Commonwealth, St. Paul. Med students are signing a petition to bring back the workers. A complete stranger brought a bag of apples and water.

Are you in a bad spot financially while you'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