Why are faculty on strike?

The Non-Tenure Faculty Coalition, #6546 (AFT/IFT, AAUP) is a certified union, representing about 500 non-tenure-track faculty at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Our unit is made up of lecturers, researchers, clinical professors and many others. NTT’s teach approximately 40% of all undergraduate classes on the UIUC campus!

We held a two-day strike on April 19th and 20th. We heard nothing from the administration. One day before our scheduled mediation session on April 27th, the administration announced that Interim Provost Feser would attend the session. We were hopeful that this signaled a commitment to settling a fair contract. Instead, we received a lecture on shared governance and the reasons we should be patient. We have been patient for more than 18 months. That is long enough.

On Wednesday night, we held a membership meeting and voted to approve a second strike, this one for five days, beginning on Thursday, April 28th. This not a step we take lightly, but the administration refuses to move on our key issues, multi-year contracts and appointment/reappointment, issues that are directly connected to our students’ learning conditions and the stability of our community. Currently, faculty exist on temporary 9 months contracts, and often don’t know if they have a job for the next year until late in the summer, sometimes even into the beginning of the semester.

Make your voice heard, let the Interim Chancellor and the Interim Provost know that you want to be back in the classroom and they should settle this contract now. Call Interim Chancellor Wilson at 217-333-6290 and Interim Provost Feser at (217) 333-6677.

Our working conditions are your learning conditions and we are committed to improving both!