



PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

American Association of University Professors

Promoting Quality Higher Education – An Investment in Oregon's Future

VIA EMAIL AND
PDF ATTACHMENT

Date: February 11, 2021,

To: Shelly Chabon, PSU Vice Provost Academic Personnel, chabonr@pdx.edu
Deb Mayo-Kelley, PSU DAELR mayok@pdx.edu
Kristen Fitzpatrick, PSU Labor Relations Specialist klf3@pdx.edu

From: Theresa McCormick, Vice President for Collective Bargaining

CC: Jennifer Kerns, President jkernspsuaaup@gmail.com
Phil Lesch, Executive Director phil@psuaaup.net

Re: Demand to Bargain WITHDRAWAL: Decision and/or Effects of the decision to implement PI eligibility policy for members in UNST

Although the University did not provide PSU-AAUP with notice, PSU-AAUP received a copy of the establishment on criteria for PI eligibility for members in UNST. These guidelines were in addition to the Effects of the PI Policy agreed to by PSU-AAUP and the administration on Sept 10, 2019. AAUP submitted a demand to bargain the PI eligibility guidelines for members in UNST believing that the restrictions were unnecessary and could restrict the scholarly work of some members.

Attempts to come to an agreement were unsuccessful. After careful consideration we have decided to withdraw the demand to bargain. This was decided since we believe the wording in the UNST guidelines are not restrictive. Although guidelines are given, the wording of “it seems reasonable” would suggest it is possible to apply for exceptions for PI status for proposals that fall outside of the guidelines in specific circumstances.

We are, however, concerned that these guidelines were added on-top of an agreed upon policy, and do hope that this will not become precedent setting. It will be concerning for us if each department or division makes restrictions on PI eligibility.

We are also concerned that the spirit of this guidelines limits the scholarship of faculty at PSU. Although all external funding isn't equal in the amount of indirect funds brought into the university, it is not possible to know what projects may lead to breakthroughs, collaborations, and future funding. As such we strongly encourage administration to carefully consider all requests for an exception to the PI policy.

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Our final point of concern was the separate guidelines given for UNST faculty in Instructor, Senior I and Senior II ranks and for UNST faculty in Assistant, Associate or Full Professor ranks. We understand that these ranks are evaluated differently, however it is our understanding that in UNST these faculty are treated the same, thus this distinction feels unnecessary and could be seen as punitive.

We hope you will consider our concerns when enacting this policy, and that you will re-evaluate if this policy is necessary considering the scope of the current PI policy.