

UT-AAUP Newsletter - May 19, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As reported in the media, colleges and universities across the country, including Ohio universities such as BGSU and OU, have announced faculty and staff furloughs and terminations. Programs, departments, and colleges are being restructured and eliminated.

Everyone in academia is concerned. The future path we take as an institution may be cloudy, but one thing is very clear - the two fundamental ingredients in any academic environment are faculty & students. Our academic institution must preserve these because without either, we will no longer be an academic institution.

The UT-AAUP Executive Board is committed to protecting UT-AAUP faculty positions and terms and conditions of employment. We represent faculty and faculty interests. We cannot legally represent the CWA staff. However, we are in contact with the CWA leadership and will work closely with them. We may ask AAUP members to join the CWA on the picket line if there is picketing. UT-AAUP members will be updated from time to time on our discussions with the CWA.

The UT-AAUP was the first to report to faculty the UTMC budget crisis over four weeks ago. At that time the UNIVERSITY CASH POSITION was projected at 13.5 days of operating cash on December 31, 2020. It is now projected at 8.2 days. The industry standard is a minimum of 90 days of operating cash.

UTMC is the primary cause of the decline in the UT cash position. This is not the fault of UTMC. It is the fault of those who negotiated the 2015 Affiliation Agreement between UT and ProMedica. The positions of employees at both UT and UTMC are now at risk because of the 2015 agreement which benefits ProMedica and harms UTMC.

The UT Administration is looking for a UTMC partner and has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) with responses due June 10. UT and UTMC need a white knight with a checkbook and a fat bank account. We understand there are multiple interested parties. If a favorable UTMC solution is not timely reached, both UT and UTMC will be insolvent in late 2020 or early 2021. Again, this is not the fault of UTMC, the CWA, or the UT-AAUP. We are the victims.

We are considering a virtual meeting for UT-AAUP members. Because this could involve up to 600+ members, we are considering college by college meetings. However, before any meetings are scheduled, we will be publishing more newsletters. Faculty must be informed of the issues and facts before meetings are held. Please take the time to read the newsletters in advance of any meetings. If you have questions, please email us at: staff.utaaup@gmail.com

The feedback on the budget and finance emails has been overwhelmingly positive. We thank members for their comments and understanding during this crisis we all are facing.

Some emails have been received from faculty who are not members of the UT-AAUP. If you are not a member of the UT-AAUP, please consider joining. We have had several dozen new members join over the past three weeks. A membership form is attached to this email. Please join us.

UT-AAUP Executive Board