

July 17, 2020
UT-AAUP Newsletter
University of Akron Layoffs

The University of Akron Board of Trustees voted this week to initiate layoffs of 96 full time AAUP union faculty at the University of Akron. In addition, 82 non-union faculty, including a law faculty, and staff are being laid-off. Over 23% of the FT union faculty positions have been eliminated at Akron.

The Akron AAUP Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) has a force majeure clause that the Akron Administration has used to declare a financial emergency based on the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **UT-AAUP CBAs do not contain a force majeure clause**. Our CBAs provide for financial emergency procedures under Article 19 (T/TT CBA) and Article 27 (Lecturer CBA). These CBA Articles are not the same as a force majeure clause.

In June, the Akron Administration announced proposed budget cuts of \$65 million out of a budget of \$325 million. The current employee layoffs are \$16.4 million or about 5% of the Akron budget. It is not known where additional cuts are coming from, but there have been cuts in Athletics. The Akron Administrator cuts are not yet transparent, but appear on the surface to be modest. The Administrator cuts at The University of Toledo have also been modest except for our UT Chairs who have taken annual pay cuts up to 15%.

The specific faculty position cuts at Akron will be announced over the next two weeks. These cuts will impact the viability of many academic programs.

The UT-AAUP has been in communication with the Akron AAUP. We indicated to the Akron-AAUP President that we stand united with them as one AAUP force and will provide support for any action(s) such as a picket that they may need manpower support for. This is the same offer we extended to our UT-CWA unit.

UT-AAUP Executive Board