

PSU-AAUP:

From the days of Plymouth Normal School to today's Plymouth State University, Plymouth faculty have been dedicated stewards of the institution and its students. We and our predecessors have guided the curriculum through decades of change and growth. We are proud to provide excellent teaching, scholarship, and service for the benefit of our students and our wider community. We cherish the relationships we have developed along the way.

In the changing face of academe, it's even more important that our university have clear mechanisms for addressing faculty concerns, reliable policies for promotion and tenure, and strong faculty governance structures. Lack of job security and stability jeopardizes academic freedom for all faculty. We believe faculty should have a central role in conversations about PSU's future as an institution.

After much discussion, we have come to believe that a collective bargaining unit is the best way to clarify procedures such as workload, governance, and institutional transparency. A collective bargaining agreement can enable substantive faculty voice in university decision-making. A negotiated contract establishes reliable procedures that remain in place for the agreement's duration. The time has come for a collective bargaining agreement that ensures fair play and stability.

A year ago, a number of PSU faculty began discussions with the American Association of University Professors to ensure that our voice continues to be heard.

Why AAUP?

The American Association of University Professors is the only national union that represents professionals in higher education exclusively. Since its founding by John Dewey and Arthur Lovejoy in 1915, AAUP has gained valuable experience defining, advocating for, and defending best practices in higher education. It successfully represents faculty in matters of academic freedom, due process, and shared governance. By joining other faculty who participate in the AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress (the AAUP-CBC), we stand with and benefit from our higher education colleagues across the country.

Relevant experience. You don't have to look far to find AAUP units at schools similar to PSU. AAUP represents faculty at public universities across New England, including the University of New Hampshire, the University of Vermont, the University of Connecticut, the University of Rhode Island, and the Connecticut State University System.

Local autonomy. AAUP is a member-driven union. We will determine what our priorities are and how we will address them. AAUP-CBC members and the AAUP staff include seasoned experts with whom we can consult, but decisions about our contract will remain our own.

Financial control. AAUP collects much lower dues, with a smaller percentage going to the national, than other unions, meaning we can exercise greater control over our own dues structure.

For more information, check out <http://www.aaup.org/> and <http://www.aaupcbc.org/>

