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The TAA offers this response to Chancellor Young's March 15 statement concerning the negotiations between the University of Wisconsin and the TAA.

The principal area of contention between the 2 parties is the RAA proposal on EDUCATIONAL PLANNING. The TAA has demanded that the U. accept the principle that students and TA's be given a portion of direct decision-making power over educational issues such as course creation and modification, pedagogical technique, course structure, and textbook selection. The TAA has indicated that the mechanisms for educational planning should properly be bargained on the departmental level, owing to differences in departmental procedures. The TAA has further proposed that any formal committee established via negotiations in the departments consist of no more than 50% faculty members, and no less than 25% each, students and TA's.

The University's counter-proposal provides for an across-the-board committee structure, composed of 1/3 faculty members, 1/3 experienced TA's, and 1/3 students. Since, however, the decisions of these committees would be subject to overruling at the discretion of the departmental chairmen, the U. is, in fact, offering TA's and students an exclusively consultative and arbitrarily reversible procedure. The TAA sees this as no improvement over the status quo.

While Mr. Young has consistently spoken of the TAA's demand for "ultimate decision-making power," he did not see fit to include this charge in the March 15 statement. The TAA is not interested in "ultimate power." We have been and always will be interested in the democratization of the educational process at UW.

One matter of considerable importance, in terms of bread and butter issues, concerns APPOINTMENTS AND JOB SECURITY. The U's job security proposal is unacceptable for several reasons. The U. has offered to guarantee TA's financial support for a period of 3 years, subject to 2 serious qualifications: 1) a TA could be dismissed with little chance of appeal during his first year of teaching. 2) The TA could be transferred into a non-teaching position, an arrangement which would deprive him of the entire course of appeals which the TAA is trying to establish. The TAA is asking for a contract of the same period but AS A TA. This is not a request for "instant tenure" as has been claimed, however. The TAA proposal includes mandatory review of each TA at the end of each year to determine whether the TA continues to meet teaching and academic criteria.

The major objection to the U. proposed grievance procedure is that the time course is too lengthy. The procedure allows the administration and faculty a great deal of time to place their recommendations for dismissal at every level of the sequence of appeal, but requires that the TA concerned respond in a very minimal amount of time. In contrast, the TAA proposal asks for a rapid grievance procedure during which a student is innocent until proven guilty. During the time, during which the grievance is being heard, the TA would not be removed from his position.

In the interest of keeping the lines of information open, in order that the purpose of the strike not become distorted, we welcome any questions on clarifications of issues, and on the nature of negotiations.

MEDIATION

The TAA has been trying in every way to get negotiations re-opened with the University. TAA leadership does not rule out mediation. Press stories have reported that TAA representatives have met with nationally known labor mediator Nathan Feinsinger. Chancellor Young says that he has not been contacted about further negotiations; but the UW rumor center does not deny that individual members of the UW bargaining team may have been approached about re-opening negotiations.

IMPORTANT PHONE NO.'S: TAA Main Office: 256-4375 TAA Rumor Center: 256-4020
Undergraduate Stride Center: 256-7318 TAA News Service: 256-6511

PERSONAL NOTES OF A CONCERNED STRIKER

A psychology graduate student, who says he is "about as straight as they come," has joined the TAA picket lines at the Psychology building. As students and faculty cross the picket lines, he hands them a printed statement telling why he is on strike. Below are some excerpts from his "Personal Notes of a Concerned Striker:"

"I detest student power plays when their sole aim is student power.

I detest the verbal harassment of students who cross the picket lines.

And I feel very bad about missing my classes and not being able to conduct my research. But I am in the picket lines. Why? First, let me tell you how the Sunday night meeting of the TAA went:

I went to the meeting hoping I would find inflammatory rhetoric, hoping I would find the TAA unwilling to make concessions or bargain, hoping to find out that the TAA was really interested only in power politics and too immature to bargain--or even discuss the bargaining intelligently. In short, I was hoping that I would not have to walk in a picket line. But I found, instead, a group of people who were genuinely concerned that a strike seem justifiable and because of that concern willing to stay an extra hour into the night to make sure they knew what they were accepting from the UW or why they were striking. The intelligence and maturity demonstrated by Bob Muehlenkamp, the TAA's bargaining team, and the TA's in general was unmistakable. So I am in the picket line.

There are 2 further points of information you should know to make an intelligent decision on the issue:

1) The Monday edition of the Capital Times quoted Bob Muehlenkamp as saying, "The University proposals all sound fine until you get to the last sentence." Well, sometimes it was the first sentence, sometimes the last, and sometimes the key sentence was in the middle. But in general the UW proposals expressed agreement with the TAA's proposals--but there was always that key loophole sentence which in essence failed to guarantee any effective implementation of the proposal.

2) Why are you as undergraduates (or graduates) being asked to stay away from all your classes? The reason is this. The TA's know that they will not be paid for as many days as the strike lasts. Secondly, the TAA is not demanding that the TA's be paid while they're on strike. In short, the strike is costing each TA \$8-\$10 a day--the money he or she needs to live each day. Thirdly, if you continue to attend your classes, the University could probably get along quite well for 6, 8, 10, weeks, while the TA's could probably not afford to go that long without pay. Therefore, you are requested to stay away from all your classes so that the pressure will be put on the University to bargain with the TAA--so that the University will not be able to just wait it out until the TA's are forced to come back to work so they can earn the money necessary to literally feed themselves and their families."

MORE LABOR NEWS

The TAA has learned that another important service to the U. has been stopped since the beginning of the strike on Monday. Teamster drivers for the United Parcel Service are refusing to cross picket lines. Thus important packages to and from the U. are not being delivered.

FOOD FOR PICKETERS

Several groups and individuals are supplying food and hot drinks to picketers. As one example, Lois Koniak and Andrew Coburn are responsible for overseeing an operation which distributes 500 items of food a day to pickets. They receive about \$40 a day in donations and buy discounted food at the Mifflin Co-op. Also, the Green Lantern is offering free soup and bread to strikers each day from 11:00-2:00.

CAMPUS INDIGESTION

The first issue of CAMPUS INDIGESTION is being distributed today. The TAA News Service has issued this publication because the administration's CAMPUS DIGEST was so hard to swallow.