Employee Relations

Dear Colleagues,

Today the Minnesota Court of Appeals agreed that the University does have the right to appeal the Unit Determination Order by the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS), which stated that lecturers and teaching specialists could be included in the faculty bargaining unit that will vote in the SEIU election. Before that appeal will be heard, the court has asked BMS to rule "promptly" on the University's request for reconsideration.

In short, the University Administration disagrees with the BMS decision to include lecturers and teaching specialists in the faculty bargaining unit, known as Unit 8. We believe the law is clear that those positions are in Unit 11, not Unit 8. Unit 8 faculty covered by tenure code play a unique role given that they are responsible for delivering and advancing all three parts of the University's mission of research, teaching, and service. We recognize that all employees make vital contributions to the University but do so in different ways, and that is reflected in their separate bargaining units under the law.

It's important to stay engaged on this issue and to keep informed about how unionization could impact you. These three main websites are a good source of updated information:

- UMN Excellence (hosted by faculty who are opposed to union representation)
- University of Minnesota faculty election website (hosted by University of Minnesota Administration)
- Academics United (affiliated with SEIU union).

As always, I will keep you updated on the process and the election as more details become available.

Sincerely,

Patti Dion
Director of Employee Relations