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Fwd: Update on our upcoming union election

Goucher Faculty Union <goucherfacultyunion@gmail.com>
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Dear Colleagues:

We are happy to announce that yesterday the College and the union reached an agreement allowing the vote on the union to go forward through a secret ballot election. Eligible faculty are all undergraduate contingent faculty – part-time, half-time, and full-time. On November 25, ballots will be mailed out by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to all eligible voters home addresses. The NLRB must receive your completed ballot no later than December 8, 2014. If they are not, they will not be counted in the election. The votes are then counted and reported back to us.

If the majority of us vote “yes,” then we will have formed a union! After that, we (everybody is in the union), will elect a representative group to act as a bargaining committee to negotiate a contract. The bargaining committee’s first job will be to survey all undergrad non-tenure, non tenure track faculty to see what things we’d like to see in a contract, what improvements we’d like to make, and what our priorities are. **It is important to know that we start bargaining from where we are now, not from scratch.** The bargaining committee, with the help of experienced negotiators from Local 500, get together a set of proposals. Then we start negotiating.

When the bargaining committee and the administration have agreed on a contract, then we, the union members, will vote on whether to accept that contract. We bargain our own contract and we decide what to bargain over! Ultimately, we have the say on whether or not the negotiated contract is acceptable and we have the opportunity to cast a vote reflecting that. **No one will pay any dues until a majority of people here at Goucher vote yes on a contract.**

The Organizing Committee would once again like to invite you to talk with us at the A.A.U.P. meeting on **Wednesday, November 12**. While yesterday’s faculty meeting allowed some airing of questions and concerns, the A.A.U.P. meeting will provide a better opportunity for an in-depth discussion. The meeting is scheduled from 4:00-5:00pm in Meyerhoff 106. If you can’t make it to that meeting, or if you just want to talk to someone one-on-one, feel free to send an email to the organizing committee and one of us can drop by your office or have coffee with you and do our best to answer your questions.

We are excited about the positive changes happening at Goucher and look forward to seeing you on November 12.

Sincerely,
The Goucher Faculty Union Organizing Committee

