

Temple's Empty Negotiations

As TAUP reported in its [e-bulletin last Wednesday](#), Temple University withdrew their financial offer at the negotiations session on January 7.

Thursday, January 8, Deborah Hartnett, Vice President for Human Resources, sent an email to the bargaining unit members represented by TAUP, which included the memo the TAUP Negotiating Team received on January 7, in which Temple withdrew its economic proposals from the bargaining table. Hartnett's January 8 email specifically states that Temple management are willing to meet with the union to discuss negotiating options. However, this is an empty promise. At the negotiating table on Wednesday, January 7, TAUP asked directly which options Temple had to offer, and management said they had none. When asked when they would have options, they could not be specific.

By withdrawing the financial package and not presenting **any** alternatives, Temple management has left the negotiations in practice without any direction ([see TAUP e-bulletin January 7](#)). In fact, there is no Temple proposal, or any other management "option," to replace what was withdrawn. Only TAUP's proposal of December 5 is on the table, and Temple has rejected it.

Temple's January 8 message is just the latest example of distortion and misinformation that the University public relations machine has been using to sow fear into faculty and staff. Management consistently points to the economic downturn in industry, and tries to make its employees believe that the University is in the same boat. Temple is not a business; Temple is in the education sector, which does not face the financial crisis with the same vulnerability. Even the January 9 unemployment report indicates that education and healthcare are not losing jobs. TAUP's goal for this negotiation has always been, and continues to be, to reach a fair and equitable contract. Temple's actions continue to block this possibility.

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