



Washington State Legislature

November 4, 2013

Dear President Young,

We are writing to encourage our University of Washington to negotiate a fair contract with English Language Faculty (ELF) which will provide for a living wage and job stability based on evaluation and professional development - elements that are vital for student success.

Negotiations have been underway with AFT since March 2012 – over a year and a half.

As we understand, the UW has proposed that the majority of teachers would continue to be employed on a quarter to quarter basis and 70% of the faculty would continue to receive the minimum pay, even after 15 years of service. Professionalism requires that teachers have the stability to invest in their own education and professional development. A system which offers employment to 66% of the teachers for only the next quarter or part of a year based on quarterly student evaluations, without professional teaching evaluation and development, does not sound as if it would promote either professional development or serve students.

Even provisions, such as personal days, which the UW has agreed to for TAs, who teach fewer classes per quarter than ELF teachers, appear to be in dispute.

We would like to strongly encourage the use of mediation. After 20 months of negotiation it is evident that points of disagreement remain. Mediation is a process designed to find a mutually agreeable resolution, without resorting to unilateral demands from either party.

As Members of the Higher Education Committees concerned with maintaining a high quality faculty in all our universities and colleges, and legislators representing many UW English language students and faculty, we hope that the UW will negotiate with its English Language Faculty in a fair manner to enhance stability, professionalism and service to learning.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Larry Seaquist in black ink.

Rep. Larry Seaquist
Chair, House Higher Education Committee

Handwritten signature of Gerry Pollet in black ink.

Rep. Gerry Pollet
House Higher Education Committee



Representative Gael Tarleton



Senator Bob Hasegawa



Senator Maralyn Chase



Representative Jessyn Farrell



Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles