

12-6-1999

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University Marketing and Communications, "12/06/1999 - EIU Faculty Union Reach tentative Agreement.pdf" (1999). 1999. 282.
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99-245

December 6, 1999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU, FACULTY UNION REACH TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

CHARLESTON -- Representatives of the Eastern Illinois University chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois and the university administration have reached a tentative contract agreement for faculty and academic support professionals.

The university and faculty union met for the second time with a federal mediator on Thursday and Friday and after approximately 18 hours of negotiations agreed on a tentative three-year contract.

The tentative contract agreement is subject to ratification by the UPI membership and approval by Eastern's Board of Trustees. The UPI is expected to present the tentative contract agreement to its membership this week.

"We believe we have reached a tentative agreement that is mutually satisfactory," said Bob Wayland, chief negotiator for the university.

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TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Eastern's administration and UPI negotiate two separate units of employees -- Unit A, which comprises tenured and tenure-track faculty -- and Unit B, which includes annually contracted teaching faculty and academic support professionals. EIU employees represented by UPI Local 4100 total more than 600.

Last month, UPI voted 129-87 to allow all EIU tenured and tenure-track faculty and academic support professionals --"fair-share payees"-- to vote on contract ratification instead of limiting voting rights to members of the union. Fair-share payees are faculty and staff employees who must pay a monthly fee toward the union but choose not to join.

The UPI and university bargaining teams have been negotiating a full contract since June. The three-year contract was originally scheduled to expire Aug. 31 but has been routinely extended since then. Most recently it was extended through the period of mediation which was jointly requested by UPI and Eastern's administration on Oct. 27.