

Akron-AAUP: Landscape for Earning? UA's Profligate Spending on Administrative Salaries

Colleagues in the Bargaining Unit:

While the University insists that it just doesn't have the money to offer faculty or staff competitive salaries, data analysis shows that money is always readily available for administrative salaries.

Contrary to the much-vaunted "landscape for learning," UA has provided rather a landscape for earning—as long as you are an administrator. As the graph below attests, administrative salaries have proliferated since the last faculty contract was signed (as indeed they have during the last decade).

The salaries for the president, provost, deans, vice presidents, and other administrators soared from a total of \$3.3 million in FY 2005 to \$5.6 million in the current fiscal year. UA faculty members and staff should ask whether the University has almost doubled its investment in faculty and staff over the same period of time.

This record of self-aggrandizement of administrators has not only shortchanged faculty and staff but students as well. While the University has increased spending on administration, an audit of UA finances shows that from 2002 to 2008 it simultaneously decreased from 35 percent to 32 percent the revenues devoted to the academic side.

Before the faculty accepts the argument that UA is too poor to pay competitive salaries, and before students accept that their tuition needs to continue to rise, the UA administration needs to explain why their own ranks and compensation have risen at such an extraordinary pace. Isn't it time for the UA administration to declare a freeze and reduction of administrative spending while turning its attention back to the academic side of this university?

Along with modest pay increases, Akron-AAUP is negotiating for minimum per rank salaries for faculty members. It is sobering to contemplate that the amount of revenue required to meet this request could nearly be supplied by combining the amount being paid to the departed chief financial officer John Case (\$242,000 annual salary) with the \$250,000 that will be paid to football coach J.D. Brookhart, who was fired with a year left on his contract.

UA's top-down corporate style of management has benefited a handful of administrators at the expense of the multitude of students, faculty, and staff. It is a sorry record of misguided priorities that should not be tolerated at a public institution.

Akron-AAUP Communications Committee

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