9-6-2023

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Minstate Teamsters Threaten to go on Strike

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As agreement negotiations continued on the campus of Winona State University Aug. 10, 2023, after battling through a decade of harsh living wages, inflation, and economic struggles, about 775 employees across the seven universities of Minnesota State have recently expressed their struggles, concerns and wishes in terms of wages.

The Minnesota State University Administrative and Service Faculty (MSUASF) have made their message clear — they need to strike. After battling through a decade of harsh living wages, inflation, and economic struggles, about 775 employees across the seven universities of Minnesota State have recently expressed their struggles, concerns and wishes in terms of wages.

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Bowman agreed with this and explained why new employees are turning away from our campuses.

“We’ve lost a handful of employees that go to Minnesota State College Southeast,” Bowman said. “It’s because they can get valued for their years of experience at a much higher wage.”

Bowman also wanted to mention the importance of ASF members on campus every day.

“One of the most impactful signs I saw that someone made was ‘We are the first touchpoint for students on campus,’” Bowman said. “The first people you encounter when stepping onto campus are ASF employees, and so if students don’t have them, it will be very different.”

Czaplewski further noted that joining a union like ASF is sometimes the only way to be heard.

“You’re not going to get a raise, you’re not going to get better benefits if you’re not part of a union in this type of state system,” Czaplewski said. To be a member of this union is extremely important for us, and I thank all the members who have fought so hard for us.”

Rahim summed up the needs and goals for ASF members through this entire process.

“We’re looking for equitable and fair pay increases to ensure that our members can live a more comfortable lifestyle that doesn’t require them to have second jobs or require them to be on social assistance.”

A 15-hour mediation took place Monday, August 14 and the ASF members received a “Last Best and Final Offer.” The Negotiations Team and State Board both voted to recommend members to ratify (vote yes) the last and best final offer, and ballots will be emailed on August 31 and will be due September 7th. If membership votes YES, the settlement will be retroactive to July 1, 2023.

If membership votes NO, either membership will go on strike or best and final offer will be put into motion.
A number of on-campus students never hoped to see on their weather app was “101.” In the same cubicle room that hardly fits a fridge and a bed, having no A/C (air conditioning) has been a problem in the past, but not to the point of safety regulation. With temperatures rising, Housing and Residence Life did the best they could to keep students safe: relocated them.

Sarah Olcott, the Director of Housing and Residence Life at Winona State University, spoke about her empathy towards those living in dorms.

“I understand [the accommodations we provided] are not ideal, but it was the best thing I could do to keep our on-campus students safe,” Olcott said. “We offered them fans, but that was all we could do.”

Olcott listed these buildings, which is the main floor of Scott Olson (where normally students are not allowed to sleep in the lounges, but since the weather rules, those spaces are momentarily diminished), Kryszko Commons, Haake Hall, and Kirkland Hall.

“Last week we opened up Kryszko Commons to students,” Olcott said. “We, I slept there the first night and the second night.”

Some students, although extremely uncomfortable, did not mind. The second night, they were able to sleep in the lounges and feel safer.

On Sunday, September 3, 2023, the weather in Winona was recorded as 89 degrees Fahrenheit. People were wearing shorts and t-shirts, and there was no A/C in the buildings.

Some students were forced to move to the Air-conditioned option. Many were confused on what would be provided for them in these spaces and were apprehensive about sleeping with a bunch of strangers during the first week of school.

The lounges provided camping mats for the first week of school for students to sleep on, and this past weekend (9/2 and 9/3), emergency cots were the works to be provided. Jordan Bevcar, a fourth-year student, talked about her perspective as a student living in the QUAD.

“I would have felt more uncomfortable with my blanket and pillow touching Kryszko’s floor than I would in my room, and that is truly saying something, because my entire body was sticking to my bed,” Bevcar said.

Bevcar said that the only thing that has helped her during this heat is staying in air-conditioned buildings as long as she can before she has to go to bed.

Kahealani Wakinekona, another fourth-year student who also lives in the QUAD, talked about her similar experience in not choosing the alternative option to staying in the dorms.

“Even in Minnesota, we should not be having 100-degree weather,” Wakinekona said.

For everyone, in the dorms and off-campus: please continue to drink water and take breaks through this heat. Fall will get here soon enough, but for now safety needs to be kept in mind.

Kenneth Janz - Winona State University’s interim president for 2023-24

Kenneth Janz was interviewed on September 1, 2023 in his new office in SOMEN Hall. Janz outlines his goals for the university and how he got the position.

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Janz said that he chose Winona State because of the community that the college brings. “We rally together as a community,” Janz said. “I even see subsets of our community, this family. You don’t have that everywhere.

Janz relayed four main goals that he has in store while being President.

“1. The first goal is to create a university vision statement, which will be a light for us to look forward and drive to,” Janz said.

The second goal unveiled is building a student life plan. This would support the involving life of a student holds with work, classes, and activities.

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been exciting to feel my mind work in new and different ways." Lindaman had similar thoughts and explained that his passion helped ease his decision to apply for the role. "I'm doing it because I absolutely adore Winona State," Lindaman said. "It is my home. My daughter graduated and she loved this institution, so I guess, at the end of the day, I just wanted to provide a solid leadership transition to the next president." Lindaman further expressed her need to be challenged in every position she's been at, and how she constantly wants to grow. "It's kind of why I went to athletics a while ago, it's like, wow, I would love the challenge to see if I could actually learn things that I don't understand," Lindaman said. "It's that process that is super exhilarating and painful at the same time because it's just a different way of looking at things. I mean, I'm old, and I'm to the point where I wonder if I can even learn something new, and it's been exciting to feel my mind work in new and different ways." Lindaman touched on her daily duties and what she's been working on this past month. "Here, it's a lot of meetings," Lindaman said. "The College of Liberal Arts is the biggest college, so if you have over 100 faculty, just meeting with individual members and their concerns takes up a lot of extra time and headache." For Janz, he had to get used to much longer hours with his new role. "I would say compared to my previous positions, with this one, you're on 24/7," Janz said. "I knew that was true but didn't realize how true it was." One of the hardest adjustments for Janz was the 100 faculty members he would have to get to know and the close connection she normally built with the students. "That's probably the biggest loss in my life," Lindaman said. "I had to give up teaching my courses, but I don't give them up for the connection because I have taught orientation since the very first day I walked onto this job. It's my favorite time of the semester and I love first year students. It's rewarding for me to meet a first-year student and then see where they are at graduation, and I believe that's what we're here for." His biggest challenge is that he tends to be more on the introverted side. He can prep for speeches and talk about how he struggles working larger crowds. "I thought the world of Scott Olson because he was such a relator, he could talk to anybody," Janz said. "I have to work really hard to do that, so in some ways, I think we'd be a great institution if we found someone who is really, really good at that." However, Janz wanted students to know that though he is quieter, he loves meeting and speaking with new people. "I'm not always the most forward person, so you can introduce yourself to me and I'll talk to anybody," Janz said. "It's the only thing I still struggle with, so feel free to talk to me too." Lindaman was extremely excited to speak on the plans administrators have for WSU. One thing that Janz finds amusing about his new role is the fact that everywhere he goes, people recognize him. "It's funny because now, I've kept getting stopped by random people asking questions or small groups yelling out, 'President Janz, can we take a picture with you?' Janz said. "It's almost like being a minor celebrity in a weird way, people know who I am now." Lindaman, though only being in this position for a month, noticed a common theme in her meetings with faculty. "I think people really just want to be heard and affirmed," Lindaman said. "I think if I can provide that, if I can affirm your value, I'll be impactful." Janz wanted to provide advice to students who are thrown into new roles, whether it being at school or in the workforce. "I think the biggest thing is learn the names of the people who can help you get things done," Janz said. "I think the best thing you can do in a new role is build connections and relationships because they can float you a lot further." Though both faculty members stepped outside of their comfort zones, they've both already learned so much in such a short period of time. "For me, this position had rein- forced the power of people and relationships," Lindaman said. "And the value of the sense of a public good has in our shared purpose."
Olson worked his last full day as Chancellor of the Minnesota State System in August 1st of this year was former president Olson’s first day as Chancellor of the Minnesota State System, however. Olson worked his last full day as Winona State University president the day just before, on July 31.

“I was the president of Winona State right up until 6 p.m. on July 31,” Olson stated. “and then when my wife picked me up, we got in the car, we drove to St. Paul and then the next morning at 7:55 I was in the office.”

In the 11 years as president before July 31 at 6 p.m., Scott Olson truly made his mark on WSU. Vice President of Enrollment and Student Life Dr. Denise McDowell reflected on the strides the University made when Olson was her supervisor.

Former president Olson oversaw many changes, improvements and inclusions during his time at WSU. The IWC solar panels, the establishment of Education Village, saying goodbye to west campus and even the tradition of bell-ringing at graduation are to name just a few.

“So there’s a lot of fond memories in footprints that are left on the campus that are a byproduct of his season at Winona State University,” McDowell said.

“So I think for that, he will always be a part of us and because he’s the Chancellor, he’s just not here every day.”

One thing about former president Olson, students and faculty members would probably agree, he is the roundabouts, which most students are getting affordable college tuition in the next few years,” Fryer stated.

Chancellor Olson is well aware of this need for affordable tuition, as it is one of his four main goals for his new position. The financial burden of college housing and classes, combined with basic necessities such as food and water, hinders the success of thousands of students across the state. Olson hopes to make an impact on this issue during his time as Chancellor.

The number one thing Chancellor Olson hopes to achieve, while in this new position is in regards to a plan entitled “Equity 2030.” Equity 2030 strives to make college persistence and graduation accessible and equally possible for all students, no matter their race, sexuality, gender, ability, socioeconomic status, etc.

“Everybody in the Minnesota State System office is all in [to equity 2030] and we just have to do that, so that’s the big one,” Olson said. “And it’s important to students, and we’re not there yet: you know, the outcomes are different on each campus and they’re not equitable in every case, and we just have to do that.”

Students were notified of Olson’s departure in an email sent at the beginning of summer break in May. In the email, Olson informed students of the interim president and the search for a next president for WSU; he also stated how much he is going to miss interacting with students and WSU’s “vibrant campus community.”

“Just like you, I became a Warrior the day I arrived on campus, and I will remain a Warrior forever,” Olson stated in the email’s last line.

The one thing Olson said he’s not going to miss about Winona is the roundabouts, which most students, faculty and community members would probably agree with. Everything else about Winona is something to be missed, however.

“Winona was a huge part of our lives, and maybe for me, one of the happiest times of my life,” Olson said. “So we’ll see what the future holds, but it’s awe inspiring.”

Students such as Fryer and Carman are looking for improvements on both a university and a system-wide level, including decreased college tuition and a wider bandwidth for student voices and concerns.

“With a new chancellor brought in, I hope that more student voices will be heard, that more of an agenda gets pushed,” Carman said. “If anyone can do it, it’s Scott Olson.”
ELLY HERRICK

**Oppenheimer** helps to draw in a crowd, but noth-...
Fall Sports Media Day: Winona State Volleyball is Starting with New Energy

Winona State Women’s Volleyball team recruited nine new players to start off the season, all of which are first-years. This is a big number as the team has only 3 third-year players. This year, the new Warriors have already blended well with their fellow teammates and will help the team to reach the finals.

One interesting fact about these freshman girls is their average height. Only one stands at 5’9” and the rest are 6’ or above. This advantage boosted the overall height of the team and will likely prove to be a huge asset on the court as well.

Unfortunately, pre-season matches did not go as expected for the Warriors, but they are confident about their upcoming ones. “Our pre-season ranking is nine,” head coach Joe Getzin said. “I think we can do a lot better than that and be in the top four in the conference by the time we are done, but we have a lot of work between now and then to put those pieces together.”

Along with the five new recruits, the team will have the leadership of fourth-year Sidney Paulson from Jackson, Wis. consin. Sidney is confident that the new Warriors have already blended well with their fellow teammates and will help the team to reach the finals.

“I am really interested to see how they will gel with the team,” Sidney said. “It’s kind of fun that there are five of them that are already close, so, I am hoping that we all get super close as a team and that we all welcome them in.”

The volleyball team has gained several strong individuals to hopefully create a power-house of a team, but it also takes strong leadership like Getzin and assistant coach, Kristine Finch, a walking example to maintain team moral and strong bonds.

Fisch particularly loves to bring her children to work for motivation. “I just love bringing the kids around the gym so the girls can kind of see that they can have the career they want and the family that they want someday,” she said. “Some days are more chaotic than others, but I think we have a great program here and I hope it is not too hard to blend the two roles together.”

The team will face a real challenge as they start their conference matches on Thurs- day, Sept. 14, 2023, against the University of Sioux Falls (S.D.). They hope for a good start as they are having their first match at their home venue.

In the pre-conference this week they will be playing against Westminster College (Utah) on Friday, Sept. 8, 2023.

Fall Sports Media Day: Winona State Soccer Welcomes Several First-Year Students

The Winona State Women’s Soccer team recruited nine new players to start off the season, all of which are first-years. This is a big number as the team has only 29 players in total.

A significant change since this first-year group is their unity and their ability to blend with the team. On the media day, they were often found hanging around with their senior players and they were sometimes often asked to share their opinions of the team.

Most of the time, players only see the team while thinking about what the university is like. But these players were a little different, they also considered the class size and the courses they would study there.

“I was really drawn to their math department because I know they have a great program here and I really love those small class sizes because I wouldn’t want to get to know my professors,” Anilka Groendal, a first-year from New Ulm, Wis. said. “Then I met the soccer team one day and they just made me feel so wel- come. I was immediately sold on the school.”

After one of the best defenders, Bailey Dettinger, left the team as a graduate, Reanne Robak took charge of the Warriors. Weil is a fourth-year now and she will have the jersey number 10 for the rest of the season.

Head Coach, Jim Leibforth is confident with the leadership of Weil as she brings confidence to the team. She also had a great season last year, being the third highest point-taker of the team.

“Reanne, there’s not much more you can ask from a captain, a player, and a leader,” Leibforth said. “She really knows how to get the best out of everyone. And, you know, even if it’s not her day, she’s going to make sure that everybody else is still operating and moving forward.”

Leibforth promotes a positive attitude that is essential to the program at Winona State. Along with a strong work ethic, the ability to overcome any obstacle is an important characteristic of a soccer player.

“Winona State is eighth on the NSIC women’s soccer overall sta- tistics. Weil is also happy to have a lot of first-years on the team, even more so because they are all from western Minnesota being a long way from Winona. I feel like they’re going to bring a lot of their parents which is nice. We need a lot of fans out there,” Weil said. “But I think they bring a lot of grit with them as well. They want to beat teams around from other after almost a year.”

The team currently has just six players who are fourth-years and only 3 third-year players. This year they have plenty of experience with the Warriors, but next year they will likely prove to be a huge asset.

The team will face a real challenge as they start their conference matches. “I think we can do a lot better than that and be in the top four in the conference by the time we are done, but we have a lot of work between now and then to put those pieces together.”

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While the typical field sports like football, soccer and baseball are exciting, there is a vast variety of clubs at Winona State University that offer near endless opportunities for a workout. From powerlifting to fishing, dunking to dance, a fun new hobby is sure to stick.

This time, the Winona State Hip Hop Team has hopped into the limelight.

Created by students well before COVID-19, the Hip Hop team was an extremely competitive club that offered tryouts during the first week of school. With upwards of sixty people auditioning, it was typically only twenty that would go on to join the team.

After COVID, the team shifted into something far more relaxed. Rather than searching for competitive dancers, the team opened itself up to all students as a fun opportunity to meet new people while either improving their dance skills or trying their luck at a recent activity without the high stakes of a competition.

The current team is captained by fourth-years Claudia Johnson and Nicole Banicki.

Both girls have been enthusiasts of dance since they were young, participating in activities such as theater and other dance teams throughout their youth. Moving to college, finding a group that they could chase their passion in was important, and hip hop was the way to go.

"I have always loved the fast pace and edgy movements in hip hop," Banicki said. "I love that anyone can do it since it is free and does not require as much technique as other forms of dance."

Banicki has been the captain of the hip hop team for an impressive three years, coaching dance for three more.

Without the requirement of consistent practice and attendance, it is an easy, low-commitment way to relieve stress through exercise without the common expectations of typical sports teams.

Members of the team can anticipate learning dances both choreographed by the captains and other members of the team, as well as popular dances from the media.

"They will also be participating in team bonding exercises and performing some of the dances they have learned," Banicki said. "The team also loves to make TikTok’s and hopes to make more this year."

The team has been known to perform at school events such as homecoming, an overly exciting opportunity to highlight their skills and display the challenging work and team connection gained throughout the year.

The captains also intend to implement themed weeks, a fun new addition to the team that involves dressing up and learning dances based on said theme. Their first week is Barbie themed!

"We are going to have everyone dress up like Barbie or Ken and wear pink at our practice," Johnson said. "Nicole and I want to teach them Barbie’s dance from the movie!"

The themes will change weekly and will be led by the cap-
tains and other team members.

The teams’ first meeting will take place on Sept. 5 and will continue to occur every Tuesday at nine. They last only an hour or so to not take up too much personal time and give members a chance to learn choreography and practice as a team.

Benicki and Johnson are anticipating a good turnout for the semester and hope to see plenty of smiling fresh faces ready to dip into hip hop on Tuesday nights!