

# NEIUPI NEWS

A bi-weekly news briefing from the [NEIU Chapter of UPI Local 4100, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO](#)



July 22, 2022

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“NEIUPI NEWS” is a bi-weekly informational briefing brought to you by YOUR union.

-Brandon Bisbey and Olivia Cronk, NEIUPI Communications Team

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## **1. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEGUN!**

After months of preparation, the NEIUPI Bargaining Team has met with the Administration's Bargaining Team twice. At the second meeting, the NEIUPI team presented our first five proposals, which among other things, include our overall DEI proposal, more technological support for mixed modality teaching, and clarifying the terms around intellectual property.



UPI Bargaining Team “at the table”: from left to right, Karen Appel-Drazin, Sunni Ali, Will Escalante, Narendar Rao, Mary Thill, Steve Frankel, Nik Hoel.

It's taken quite a while just to get to this point, so here is a reminder of how this process has played out:

We collected feedback and recommendations on the contract in Fall 2021 through focus groups, constituency meetings, one-on-one discussions with members, and our taskforce on DEI.

We built proposals from the many situations that our grievance team has had to address through problem-solving and actual grievances.

The Bargaining Team, along with the NEIUPI Executive Board and others with relevant knowledge and experience, thoroughly discussed contract language and developed proposals for revising or writing new language.

We expect negotiations to take several months, at minimum, and most of the work will take place in the Fall. Please stay tuned—*here, on the listserv, and in our membership off-campus email list (coming soon!)*—for **information and calls to action**.



Will Escalante, Nancy Matthews, Sunni Ali

## 2. **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO**

Our negotiation will only be as strong as the members who back up the Bargaining Team. As negotiations get going, we will need members to **show up** when called upon to **show our strength and seriousness**.

**Showing up** means:

**answering** surveys when asked to weigh in on the importance of a proposal

**talking** to your colleagues about union negotiations, keeping NEIUPI at the forefront

**showing up in-person** at bargaining events to send a message to the administration

## 3. **An important note about the NEIUPI Listserv and email-centered NEIUPI news**

The NEIUPI Listserv ([conversation@neiupi.org](mailto:conversation@neiupi.org)) is a forum for vibrant, practical,

and/or necessary conversation. It's important that all opinions and inquiries are treated respectfully. Please use your good judgment in maintaining a friendly and professional posture, and upholding our community standard of inclusivity.

In the coming weeks, we will begin using a separate email list for bargaining information and surveys. Unlike [conversation@neiupi.org](mailto:conversation@neiupi.org), which has a broader audience and wider scope, the other list will only include dues-paying members\* and will only be used to transmit crucial information. Please be on the lookout for information about this new list.

\*If you are not sure whether you are a current dues-paying member, please check your last pay stub from the Spring semester for dues deduction.. If you are not paying dues and want to be a member, please contact NEIUPI Treasurer Nik Hoel ([nikolashoel@gmail.com](mailto:nikolashoel@gmail.com)) or President Nancy Matthews ([gratefulmargin@gmail.com](mailto:gratefulmargin@gmail.com)).

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**NEIUPI is working for a fair contract and an inclusive university!**