

English professor elected head of YSU faculty union

Michael Finney, a professor of English at Youngstown State University, has been elected president of the YSU chapter of the Ohio Education Association, which represents the university's faculty.

Finney, whose two-year term begins Aug. 1, said one of his top priorities will be to improve the dealings between the union leadership and the university administration. "It is crucial to improve this relationship for the university to move forward and to better serve our students," he said.

The officers of the union's executive committee are James Schramer, first vice president and professor of English; Ray Beiersdorfer, second vice president and professor in the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences; Kathylynn Feld, treasurer and professor and director of YSU's Medical Assisting Technology Program; and Howard Mettee, secretary and a professor of chemistry.

Finney's other goals are to improve communications between the union leadership and the other members of the bargaining unit; to increase the involvement of the union in the state and national organizations with which they are affiliated; and for the negotiating team to complete negotiations for the next contract by the end of spring semester 2005.

"I also hope to keep my name out of the newspaper," he joked.