

YSU

Negotiations panel named

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University President David Sweet announced the names of a seven-member panel designed to study the recent contract negotiations and resulting strikes of the Association of Classified Employees and Ohio Educators Association yesterday.

The panel's purpose is to improve labor-management relations and the collective bargaining process on campus, a YSU news release stated. Sweet asked that the panel make recommendations for the process by the end of the year.

The panel will begin meeting every Friday, starting Oct. 21.

The panel's members are both

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—YSU Provost Robert K. Herbert

internal and external to YSU. It is being chaired by YSU Provost and vice-president of academic affairs, Robert K. Herbert.

The panel's other members include John Pogue, a current member of YSU's Board of Trustees, chair of the board's internal affairs committee and an attorney partner in the law firm of Harrington, Hoppe and Mitchell, Ltd.; Eugenia Atkinson, executive director of the Youngstown Metropolitan Housing

Authority, and a former chair of the YSU Board of Trustees; Jim Graham, president of United Auto Workers Local 1112, and a YSU graduate; Dennis Haines, a labor lawyer in Youngstown and partner in the law firm of Green, Haines, Sgambati Co.; James Morrison, retired professor and former chair of psychology at YSU and former chair of YSU Academic Senate; Tom Shipka, professor and chair of philosophy and religious studies at YSU and current

chair of Academic Senate.

Sweet said in the news release that strained labor-management relations were not unique to YSU's campus. He said that as operating budgets become tighter and employees are asked to share in the growing cost of benefits such as health care, tension has arisen in a number of campuses statewide and nationally. According to Sweet, the panel will seek input from YSU employees, union leaders and others.

Herbert said that the panel would like to hear from three separate groups while considering recommendations: administration, employees and the public. He said that people with comments may

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either submit them in writing or by meeting with the panel. He said that the panel will also set up an e-mail account to receive ideas.

Herbert said the panel will study campuses who have had similar labor-management problems to determine how they progressed.

He said the panel hadn't begun its fact-finding yet, but there was an informal consensus among many on campus that there was a need for better communication between the two groups.

Herbert added that, while people were free to offer their input, the panel wishes that either group would stay away from blaming the other for the contract problems.

"Let's move on to a place that's productive rather than the swamp that we're used to being in," Herbert said.

Christine Domhoff,

President of the ACE union at YSU said that she hoped students would comment to the panel as well.

She said that all the members of the panel were well-respected but she had a "slight" reservation about one of the board members, Pogue, being a current YSU Trustee. Domhoff said she hoped that wouldn't hurt his objectivity in making recommendations to the president.

Julia Gergits, president of the OEA union on campus, said her union would be interested in the report the panel makes to Sweet and that she was happy the president was taking actions to improve labor-management relations on campus. She said her union would cooperate with the panel if needed.

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