

Cochran, unions agree on collective bargaining plan

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YSU President Leslie Cochran met Tuesday with YSU's four union heads to announce plans for implementing a collective bargaining agreement.

The collective bargaining plan is based on delegates of the four unions working together to reach a common goal in contract negotiations.

The plan has been implemented at other universities, including the University of Cincinnati, where it has proven successful.

Collective bargaining has been at YSU for many years, but has never been initiated on a large scale because of apprehension by the administration under former President Neil Humphrey.

"There's a climate of listening to what

people say that wasn't here before," said Mary Jo Repasky, president of the YSU Association of the Classified Employees.

In previous years, an outside counsel was brought in to negotiate union contracts, at great expense to the University. Now, with this new plan, that will all be eliminated and both sides will work together to reach agreements.

According to John Russo, president of the YSU Ohio Education Association, the University spent \$200,000 in 24 months for an outside arbitrator.

"Outside counsel acidified labor relations on campus," Russo said.

"The time seems right to embark on this [collective bargaining]," said Repasky.

All the unions involved, feel they will get more out of collective bargaining.

"[It] allows for my organization to have some say in the bargaining process," said Genevra Mann, president, Associa-

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tion of Professional/Administrative Staff.

Frank McGuire, director of YSU Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, said being the smallest union on campus, they had "no input" in the old negotiating process.

"Even the smallest unions on campus should have a voice," he said.

McGuire continued, "We're the safest campus in the state of Ohio. We have a good purpose to be here and we need certain things to accomplish our purpose."

Although there are good feelings, not all troubles are over.

"This does not mean we won't disagree or there won't be potential conflict," Cochran said. "Hopefully our common interests will prevail rather than our differences."