

# Faculty Union Negotiations Update

## **The faculty union is on strike, effective Oct. 19**

As of 5 a.m., Oct. 19, the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties has called for an immediate work stoppage at all 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, including Clarion University.

The State System remains committed to negotiating in good faith to reach a settlement that is fair to all parties, particularly our students and families that pay nearly 75 percent of the universities operating costs.

## **The university is open**

During this time, our campuses (Clarion and Venango) will remain open with regular hours of operation. This includes: housing, dining, the Gemmell Student Center on the Clarion campus, libraries (Carlson and Suhr), IT services, The Center for Wellness in Becht Hall, mail services, registrar's office, campus police and university communication. Please contact the respective department or office for specific operating hours. Any changes to the schedule will be communicated via email and social media.

In the event of a health emergency, students should contact or visit the Center for Wellness in Becht Hall or university police at 814-393-2111.

## **Class information**

Since faculty members are not required to strike, some classes may continue to meet. As such, students should report to their classes as scheduled Wednesday, Oct. 19 and Thursday, October 20. Beginning after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, students can log in to D2L to see a comprehensive listing of classes that are and are not meeting.

If a class is marked as meeting, it means that we have not verified that the faculty member is on strike. Faculty are not required to strike, so until we can verify if a faculty member shows up to teach their class we can only assume that the class is meeting.

## **Athletics and other activities**

Athletic contests will proceed as scheduled. Please go to the CU Connect event calendar, <https://cuconnect.clarion.edu/events>, for a complete listings of activities.

## **STUDENT FAQs (CLARION UNIVERSITY)**

### **Is the university open?**

Yes. During this time, our campus will remain open with regular hours of operation. This includes: housing, dining, the Gemmell Student Center, libraries (Carlson and Suhr), IT services, Student Success operations, Center for Wellness in Becht Hall, mail services, registrar's office and campus police.

### **How will we be notified of any changes in schedule or strike negotiations?**

Further information, updates and answers to frequently asked questions will be available by visiting [www.clarion.edu/strikeinfo](http://www.clarion.edu/strikeinfo), which will provide valuable links to Clarion University information. This site also provides links to the state system's updates on the work stoppage, including proposals to the faculty union and the union's response. Clarion will also continue to provide updates via email and its website.

Please be reminded that e-mail is the official communication channel for the university. It is very important for you to actively monitor your Eagle Mail account for messages related to your courses, registration, financial aid, and other official university business. Note that you can easily configure Eagle Mail with your smart phone. For details, please select Eagle Mail from the [www.clarion.edu](http://www.clarion.edu) MyClarion Tools page and review the Eagle Mail and Smart Phone information.

The university utilizes the Eagle Alert system to distribute any urgent or emergency announcements via text message. See [www.clarion.edu/eaglealerts](http://www.clarion.edu/eaglealerts) to register for this important service. All students are strongly encouraged to register for Eagle Alerts. With Eagle Alerts, note that you can not only register your own cell phone, but you can also register the cell phone or e-mail address for parents within your Eagle Alert account.

### **Does the strike affect only Clarion?**

No. As of 5 a.m., Oct. 19, the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties called for an immediate work stoppage at all 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, including Clarion University.

### **What does a student do in the event of a health scare?**

In the event of a health emergency, students should visit the the Center for Wellness in Becht Hall or contact university police at 814-393-2111, or in an emergency call 911.

**How do I know if my classes are temporarily suspended?**

Since faculty members are not required to strike, some classes may continue to meet. As such, students should report to their classes as scheduled Wednesday, Oct. 19. Beginning after 5:00 pm on Wednesday, October 19th, students can log in to D2L to see a comprehensive list of classes which are and are not meeting.

**What about online classes?**For students enrolled in online courses, we ask that you continue to attempt to log-in and work in your courses until it is clear that the course is no longer meeting due to the faculty member being on strike. We understand that some faculty may have already made their specific courses inactive. Wednesday evening, we will be updating the student body regarding courses that continue to meet, as well as those that are not meeting. This list will be updated every evening of a job action.

**Will athletic events and other activities continue?**

Athletic activities will proceed as scheduled.

**Will there be problems accessing the university during the strike?**

No. Access into and out of the university will not be hindered by striking faculty. If a problem arises, contact university police at 814-393-2111.

**Should I remain on campus during the strike?**

Yes. All residential students are encouraged to remain on campus and to maintain a regular schedule, including club and organizational meetings as well as taking part in extracurricular activities and athletic events.

**Will I be able to register for the next semester if the strike continues?**

Yes. Students will be able to register for the following semester, just as you normally would, even if the strike is ongoing. Registration begins Monday and any advisor holds will be temporarily lifted to permit students to register for courses in a timely fashion; however, it is your responsibility to meet with your faculty advisors at the conclusion of the strike to review your course registrations.

**How could a strike affect my grade?**

For faculty that continue to teach, grades will be issued on the normal schedule. For students in classes that are affected by a faculty member on strike, the issuing of grades may be delayed. Clarion is committed to ensuring students can complete this semester.

**Will students have to make up classes for the days faculty are on strike?**

This would be determined at the conclusion of the strike. All efforts will be made to complete the

semester within the current semester calendar, or finding alternative means to complete coursework that would fulfill the university's commitment to students for their education.

**Will a strike affect my December 2016 graduation?**

The university will make every effort to work with the December graduates to finish in a timely manner, especially those with military, employment and graduate school obligations. Commencement ceremonies, scheduled for Dec. 17, will proceed as scheduled. If you are on track to graduate in December, you will soon receive information regarding commencement from the university registrar.

**If additional class time is scheduled to make up courses missed due to the strike, what happens if I can't attend the make-up times offered?**

The university will make every effort to be as flexible as possible while fulfilling your educational requirements.

**During the strike, should students with work study jobs continue to report for work?**

Yes. Students with work study jobs or whom the university otherwise employs would need to continue to report to work, as the university will remain open. If a student works for a faculty member who has not reported for work, the student should report to the department's academic secretary or to the dean's office.

**Will an internship, student teaching, clinical or a practicum be affected by a strike? Will students working "in the field" be allowed to continue their field work?**

Students should continue to report to their off-campus assignment because many of these kinds of experiences rely on day-to-day oversight by someone who is not employed by the university.

**Can I have my money back for my classes?**

At this time, despite the work stoppage by the faculty union, we fully intend to complete the semester. With that in mind, our regular refund policy remains in effect. If you have a specific concern, contact the Office of Student Financial Services at 814-393-2315.

**If you cancel the semester, do I get a refund?**

All efforts will be made to complete the semester. Even with a work stoppage, some of your courses may continue uninterrupted. You should make certain you are going to these classes. If you have a specific concern, contact the Office of Student Financial Services at 814-393-2315.

**What impact does this have on my financial aid? What impact does this have on my bill?**

None at this time. If you have a specific concern, contact the Office of Student Financial Services at 814-393-2315.

**Should I make the last payment on my student bill for fall?**

Yes, as we fully intend to complete the semester upon the conclusion of the work stoppage. As such, our payment plan terms are in effect. If you have a specific concern, contact the Office of Student Financial Services at 814-393-2315.

**What is the state system doing to resolve the matter?**

The state system is committed to work with APSCUF to reach an agreement that is fair to everyone. Even as the universities face significant fiscal challenges, the state system has made multiple offers to the union that include proposed pay increases for the faculty. Please refer to [www.clarion.edu/strikeinfo](http://www.clarion.edu/strikeinfo) for links to information about state system proposals to the faculty union.

**How long would a strike last? Will Clarion close?**

The faculty union decides when to go on strike and decides when to end a strike. Clarion is and will remain open. Upon a settlement, all efforts will be made to continue the semester and to allow students to complete their coursework within the existing semester calendar.

**Are all faculty required to participate in the strike? Will all classes be temporarily suspended?**

No. Individual faculty members would decide for themselves whether to participate in the strike that was called by the union. By law, faculty has the right to decline to participate and to remain in their classrooms and continue their classes for their students.

For more information, visit [www.clarion.edu/strikeinfo](http://www.clarion.edu/strikeinfo)