



September 14, 2016

President Kenneth M. Mash  
Association of Pennsylvania State College & University Faculties  
319 North Front Street  
Harrisburg PA 17101

Dear Dr. Mash:

On behalf of the members of AFT Pennsylvania, I want to convey our unequivocal support for members of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties, who have worked for more than 400 days under an expired contract.

We know the decision to authorize APSCUF leaders to call a strike was not entered into lightly and that members believe strongly that this step was necessary to move talks to a fair and equitable conclusion.

We stand with you and your 5,500 members at Pennsylvania's 14 publicly owned universities.

Your struggle reflects a nationwide fight to protect the quality of higher education and the integrity of faculty members. We support you as you fight the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's misguided efforts to de-professionalize higher education by replacing permanent faculty with temporary faculty, turning instruction over to an increasing number of students with few graduate credits, pushing more students into distance learning and cutting salaries and benefits.

Your commitment to maintaining high-quality learning opportunities for more than 100,000 students each year reflects the highest values of educators. Your success in these negotiations not only benefits your members and their families, but the students who depend on our state universities to prepare them for the future.

We are with you. Please let us know how we can help.

In unity,

Ted Kirsch, President  
AFT Pennsylvania