



## Academic Staff Professionals Representation Organization

Do you want your voice to be heard?

**WHO WE ARE:** We are the Academic Staff of the University of Wisconsin System

- Academic Staff are the professionals working in collaboration with tenure-track faculty at the University of Wisconsin campuses, who teach, conduct research, and manage and coordinate academic departments and all student services.
- ASPRO is the official lobbying and public relations arm of the Academic Staff; we advocate for academic staff, educate decision-leaders about academic staff roles, and collaborate with UW Administration, faculty, student groups, alumni associations, professional groups, and other organizations when goals are shared.
- ASPRO is a not-for-profit, membership-driven, professional organization that represents the UW System academic staff and their interests to the State Legislature, the Governor, the Board of Regents, and the public.
- ASPRO is a voluntary, membership-supported lobbying organization formed to create a single voice for the largest group of UW System employees – we are not a union, nor do we negotiate terms of employment.

**A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE:** Advocating for Academic Staff since 1989

ASPRO was created after the Wisconsin State Legislature proposed that academic staff receive a lower salary increase than the faculty; since that time ASPRO has stopped five separate proposals that would treat academic staff and faculty differently with regard to salary and benefits.

Killed three legislative proposals which would have enabled faculty and academic staff to bargain collectively, but prohibited academic staff from being in the same collective bargaining unit as the faculty. ASPRO's efforts assured that the law granting collective bargaining rights, which passed in 2009, allowed faculty and academic staff to join the same unit.

Stopped Governor Doyle's budget proposal to add 100 faculty and eliminate 200 "administrative" positions across the UW System.

Orchestrated appointment, and reappointment of an academic staffer to the State's Group Insurance Board.

Worked for full death-benefits at age 55 (previously 60 years of age)

For more, see our website: [www.aspro.net](http://www.aspro.net)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: What you need to know



- **QUESTION: How do I know if I am an Academic Staffer?**
  - Those jobs which are unique to higher education, provide direct support for academic programming, instruction, or research, and develop and implement policies in the UW System
  - Some positions include: lecturers, academic advisors, researchers, librarians, academic computing and information technology staff, scientists, and student services staff.
- **QUESTION: What are the benefits to joining ASPRO?**
  - Access to “insider” information affecting your job and your life
  - A place to quietly raise concerns that can be investigated and addressed without calling attention to yourself
  - Your role at the University will be championed to Legislators, System Administration, and the Regents
  - Advocates will be working to protect your job, your salary, and your employment benefits
- **QUESTION: How much does it cost to join ASPRO?**
  - Membership is inexpensive. You can pay annual dues of \$95 or opt for the dues to be taken directly from your monthly paycheck at a rate of 0.20 of 1%. (For most members, this means \$4.00 to \$9.00 per month.)
- **QUESTION: Are the ASPRO Board of Directors and President paid?**
  - No. The Board of Directors and President operate on a strictly volunteer basis. All board members are working academic staff who donate both their time and energies and receive no compensation in return.
- **QUESTION: How is ASPRO able to influence the Wisconsin State Legislature?**
  - ASPRO is a highly organized association which is able to clearly and effectively communicate academic staff needs to legislators and other policy makers. ASPRO employs an outside firm to manage our organization and a part-time contract lobbyist to convey our interests to the Legislature. In addition, ASPRO involves academic staff in meetings and other contacts with legislators.

## JOIN NOW: Become a part of something great

- To join ASPRO, simply visit our website: [www.aspro.net](http://www.aspro.net)
- Choose the “Join Now” tab near the bottom, print an application, fill it out, and either mail or fax it to the ASPRO office:

**ASPRO**  
**10 E. Doty St., Suite 519**  
**Madison, WI 53703**

**Fax: (608) 255-4909**

Please contact us at (608) 296-9599 if you have any questions or would like more information. We look forward to working with you!