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Negotiations Update - Financial Review

On Tuesday, December 2, National AFT financial expert Jewell Gould traveled from Washington, DC, to meet with the TAUP Negotiating Team, Temple administration's team and Temple CFO Anthony Wagner. The discussion focused on the financial health of the University.

Mr. Wagner gave a PowerPoint presentation that mirrored his talk to the Faculty Senate on November 19 (<http://www.temple.edu/budget/documents/FacultySenatePresentation11-19-08AEW.pdf>).

In it he pointed out the many financial challenges that the entire community faces in the coming months and explained some of the steps Temple has taken to make sure that the University remains in good financial shape.

After reviewing current Temple financial statements, the TAUP negotiating team remains convinced that Temple can afford to compensate faculty appropriately. TAUP has recently demonstrated that faculty salaries at Temple are lower than those of faculty at comparable doctoral research institutions, as well as the average faculty salaries in the region. We will continue to talk with Temple in an effort to negotiate the salary increases needed to keep Temple faculty from falling further behind.

The TAUP negotiating team is currently preparing a new comprehensive proposal that we hope will bring the negotiations to a conclusion.

In this time of financial uncertainty and rapid change it is important for Temple to reprioritize the use of the available funds and settle the contract. That way everyone at Temple can concentrate on the most important aspects of the university, the students and the academic mission.