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## **Board of Trustees Denies TAUP Request to Speak for Five Minutes at Quarterly Meeting**

Temple Chief Counsel George Moore, Secretary of the University's Board of Trustees, has denied the written request of TAUP President Art Hochner for five minutes to address the Quarterly meeting of the Board, which will be held tomorrow, March 10, at 3:30 pm in Mitten Hall.

Moore stated in his denial that the “[t]here is no provision for, and the Board does not welcome, comments from the public at these meetings.”

Hochner had requested the time to speak to the Board about the unresolved contract talks and to offer suggestions to advance the negotiations between Temple management and TAUP.

TAUP believes that TAUP is an integral stakeholder in the University, not “the public”. Furthermore, the Board has at times been open to allowing such commentary. In 1991, Hochner was granted permission to address the Board, during contentious negotiations, which dragged on even after the month-long strike in September 1990 had ended under court order. Permitting TAUP to speak would enhance a sense of collaboration between the union and the University.

Hochner will still attend the Board meeting as an observer, as he often does. Board meetings are open to faculty, staff, students and the public to observe quietly and respectfully. However, at the October 14, 2008 Board meeting, Paul Dannenfels, president of AFSCME local 1723, was denied entrance. AFSCME, which represents about 700 professional and technical employees, has been without a contract since October 2007.