

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Associated Professors of Southern Oregon University
Make Contractual Concessions to Protect Academic Programs

Ashland, Oregon (March 4, 2014) - In light of the potential program reductions and impact on students, the Association of Professors of Southern Oregon University (APSOU) have agreed to a contract settlement with university leadership, which provides little to no salary improvement to faculty through 2015. Instead, faculty are focusing on preserving a strong array of programs to meet the needs of Southern Oregon University's current and future students.

Vicki Purslow, professor of music and president-elect of APSOU, said, "we are hopeful that agreeing to no salary increases will allow us to direct more funding toward academic programs, reducing the depth of the proposed cuts."

In addition to little or no salary improvement, some faculty and staff will still lose their jobs. By settling the faculty contract, Southern Oregon University has a clearer picture of payroll costs and how many people will be laid off, enabling the university to better plan for the future. However, there are ongoing concerns about the ability of current leadership to lead the university through this planning process and back into fiscal health.

Portland State University and Eastern Oregon University are facing similar financial challenges and have yet to settle their contracts, while other Oregon public universities have settled for substantial salary increases both this year and next.

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