

*Education***Long Island University Ends Lockout
Of Teaching Faculty at Brooklyn Campus**

Long Island University ended its lockout of some 400 faculty members at its Brooklyn campus Sept. 15, after securing a no-strike pledge for the rest of the academic year from the faculty union.

Contract negotiations between the private university and the LIU Faculty Federation, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, will proceed under the auspices of a mediator, both sides said late Sept. 14 in announcing the 12-day lockout's end.

The faculty's lapsed prior contract will be extended through May 2017. The union said it will continue to pursue unfair labor practice charges over the lockout, as well as an arbitration proceeding over pay disparities between faculty at the New York City campus and counterparts at the university's LIU-Post campus in Nassau County.

The lockout began Sept. 3, as contentious contract negotiations spilled over into the start of the new academic year. A Sept. 6 faculty senate no-confidence vote in the LIU administration's leadership was followed by a series of student classroom walkouts, backed by elected officials and other supporters, according to the union.

Students mounted a general walkout Sept. 14, the union said.

The university will reimburse faculty members for health care costs incurred during the lockout period, the union said.

Weingarten: 'Huge Win' for Students. Referring to the university's use of replacement faculty during the lockout, AFT President Randi Weingarten, in a statement, called the end of the lockout "a huge win" for the institution's 8,000 students, who she said "have a right to a real education taught by their real professors after two school weeks of uncertainty."

She added, "While the terms of the new contract are still to be negotiated, and will be the subject of intense bargaining, we will fight for faculty to achieve equity with their peers and for adjuncts to be treated fairly given the vital work they do every day to help students realize their dreams."

Jessica Rosenberg, president of the faculty federation, said in a statement, "After 12 days of intransi-

gence, the LIU administration discovered that denying students the education they deserve is never a successful strategy."

The faculty is "relieved this is over" and looks forward to returning to the classroom and reaching "a productive outcome as bargaining progresses in the coming weeks," she said.

Management Welcomes Pledge. In a management statement, Gale Haynes, the university's chief operating officer and counsel, said: "The union's commitment not to strike during this academic year provides us enough runway to reach a reasonable and fair agreement, while providing our students the ability to continue their studies uninterrupted. That has always been our intention."

She added, "Mediation is a positive step to that end."

Lockouts appear to be unknown in the academic bargaining arena.

"I cannot recall another university or college engaging in a lockout of faculty," William A. Herbert, executive director of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education at Hunter College in the City University of New York, said in an e-mail Sept. 15.

"Keep in mind, a lockout is an economic weapon by an employer, and most colleges and universities with unionized faculty are public institutions," he told Bloomberg BNA.

Most Faculty Unions in Public Sector. Unionization of contingent faculty at private institutions continues to grow rapidly, Herbert said, but "the vast majority of institutions with faculty unions are in the public sector."

Although it remains unclear from media reports whether the lockout was intended as leverage in bargaining or a defensive tactic against the union's strike authorization, Herbert said, "it is pretty clear that the lockout backfired, as demonstrated by the protests and adverse publicity it generated, including the walkout by the university's students."

Calling the end of the lockout a positive development for all, Herbert said mediation is "a more productive mechanism for getting to a constructive resolution of the parties' current impasse in negotiations."

BY JOHN HERZFELD

To contact the reporter on this story: John Herzfeld in New York at JHerzfeld@bna.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Susan J. McGolrick at smcgolrick@bna.com

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