

INFORMATION UPDATE

MPEA Members Working for Montana University System

Administrators at some campuses have recently discussed topics such as campus closures during semester break, a 4-day, 10-hour work week, etc. Uncertainty and rumors have ensued.

For clarification, the comments you may have heard are part of a **budget planning exercise for the next biennium (July 2011 – June 2013)**. Administrators and budget directors are considering many options in the event of a “worst case scenario” after the 2011 legislative session. It is not uncommon for such budget planning exercises to occur. There have been many, with varying degrees of potential shortfalls, during the past 20 years.

MPEA representatives have been absolutely assured by a Commissioner’s Office representative that **none of the possibilities are being considered for the current biennium** (July 2009 – June 2011).

Most importantly, **issues that impact your wages, work hours, and working conditions must be negotiated with each union whose members may be affected**. For example, furloughs (required leave without pay), campus closures, changing work hours to four 10-hour days in a workweek, contracting out for services currently performed by union members, etc. cannot simply be decided and implemented by management. MPEA (and other unions representing staff and faculty) will negotiate such issues on your behalf.