

MIAMI UNIVERSITY PROPOSAL TO FAM/AAUP-AFT

September 26, 2023

GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION

I. Definition and Scope

A “grievance” is an allegation by the Union or University that there has been a violation of an Article(s) and Section(s) of the Agreement. The Union and all bargaining unit faculty members agree this Article is the exclusive procedure applicable to alleged violations of this Agreement, including disciplinary action taken with respect to bargaining unit faculty, and waive the right to any alternative procedure unless expressly provided for herein.

II. Grievance Procedure

STEP ONE

Within twenty (20) calendar days of the occurrence giving rise to the grievance, the Union or bargaining unit faculty member shall present a grievance in an informal writing to their Chair or other unit head. The Chair or unit head or their designee will investigate the grievance as they deem appropriate and respond to the Union and/or grievant within twenty (20) calendar days. Unless the parties agree otherwise, settlements at this step shall be made without precedential effect.

STEP TWO

If the grievance has not been resolved at Step One, the Union or grievant shall reduce the grievance to a formal writing, stating the facts and listing the Articles and Sections of the Agreement upon which the grievance is based, and submit the written grievance to the Dean or their designee within twenty (20) calendar days of receipt of the University’s Step One response. The Dean or their designee will have twenty (20) calendar days following the receipt of the written grievance to investigate the matter as they deem appropriate, discuss the matter with the grievant and Union and, where appropriate, submit a written response to the grievant and Union. The Union may appeal the grievance to the next step within twenty (20) calendar days of the University’s denial.

STEP THREE

If the grievance has not been resolved at Step Two, the Provost, or their designee, will meet with a designated representative of the Union to attempt to resolve the grievance within twenty (20) calendar days of the appeal to this step. If the parties are unable to resolve the grievance, the University shall, within twenty (20) calendar days of the meeting, present the Union with a written response.

Miami University reserves the right to add to, delete from, or modify any proposal herein prior to final agreement. Any withdrawal of a proposal is without prejudice to the University. Any tentative agreements reached between the parties on any proposals shall not become final until (1) the parties have reached final agreement on a full collective bargaining agreement, and (2) the Union membership has ratified the full collective bargaining agreement

Any extension to the time limits set forth herein must be by written agreement of the parties. Should the University fail to respond at any step within the timeframes contained in this provision, the grievance will be deemed denied and the Union may proceed to the next step in the procedure. University grievances shall be presented at Step Three and the Union's response shall be subject to the time limits therein.

III. Mediation

In the event that the parties cannot resolve the grievance at Step Three, before the grievance has been appealed to arbitration, the Union and the University may, by mutual consent, contact the State Employment Relations Board ("SERB") or Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service ("FMCS") for grievance mediation. All time limits shall be suspended while mediation is pending.

IV. Arbitration

1. If the grievance has not been resolved at Step Three, the Union, but not the individual bargaining unit faculty member(s), has the sole right to refer a grievance to arbitration and to conduct the proceeding as a party, and shall within twenty (20) calendar days of the receipt of the written response from Step Three submit a written notice to the Provost, or their designee, of its intent to submit the grievance to binding arbitration. Failure by the Union to request arbitration within twenty (20) days of a denial will result in the grievance being denied and the right to arbitration is deemed waived.
2. The parties shall have the right to mutually agree upon the arbitrator, but in the event they cannot so agree within twenty (20) calendar days of receipt of the above notice, the parties shall notify the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service of their intent to arbitrate a grievance. FMCS shall submit a panel of arbitrators to each Party. Each party shall alternately strike a name until one remains. The University shall strike the first name. The person remaining shall be the arbitrator. The selection of the arbitrator and conduct of arbitration shall be in accordance with FMCS's then applicable rules of procedure.
3. All decisions of the selected arbitrator shall be final and binding on the University, the Union, and all relevant members of the bargaining unit.
4. The arbitrator shall have no authority to add to, subtract from, or modify this Agreement or modify any procedures (including any time limits) set forth herein.
5. The decision of the arbitrator shall be limited to only the question or questions submitted to the arbitrator, and the arbitrator shall have no authority to determine any other issues not so submitted to them.

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6. The arbitrator shall have no jurisdiction or authority to issue an award that changes, modifies or restricts any action taken by the University with respect to the exercise of management rights under Article of this Agreement, and shall have no authority to substitute their judgement for that of the University regarding decisions involving academic matters.
7. If there is a question as to whether the arbitrator has jurisdiction to hear a case, this question must be heard and an immediate bench ruling issued by the arbitrator prior to their hearing and deciding the merits of the case.
8. In disciplinary cases, evidence of all relevant prior offenses and misconduct shall be deemed admissible.
9. The cost of the arbitration shall be borne equally by the parties, including the arbitrator's fees and expenses and the cost of the hearing room. Each party shall pay its own individual expenses, including transcripts and the fees and reimbursement of its representatives and witnesses.
10. The arbitrator shall be requested to issue their decision within thirty (30) calendar days after the hearing or receipt of the transcript of the hearing.
11. No recordings may be made of the hearing, except as needed by the preparer of a transcript.

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