

Uwire

News from other campuses across the country from University Wire news service



E-mail helps faculty union communicate

The Minnesota Daily (U. of Minnesota)

(U-WIRE) MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The last time university faculty members voted to form a union, they sat at the same tables and discussed the issues over lunch at the Campus Club in Coffman Memorial Union.

That was in 1981. Now, fewer faculty members have time to stop by the cafeteria, and another means of communication is used to mobilize faculty unionization.

The obvious choice is e-mail, said Thomas Walsh, University Faculty Alliance member and physics professor. "To tell you the truth, I honestly didn't expect this to work as well as it has," Walsh said.

The University Faculty Alliance uses e-mail to send meeting notices, updates and analyses of proposed tenure revisions to faculty members who subscribe to a list server.

Walsh said e-mail allowed union members to quickly reach more people than they could by phone or regular mail.

"This is a kind of new way of

communicating information to people," Walsh said. "It permits you, if you're responsible, to transmit factual information where previously that would be difficult.

"I think the amount of miscommunication can actually be reduced this way."

Yale professors start talks on tenure study

The Yale Daily News (Yale U.)

(U-WIRE) NEW HAVEN, Conn. — For Yale's junior faculty, a glimmer of hope has appeared on the horizon.

Now that statistics chairman John Hartigan has released the results of his commission's year-long study of Yale's beleaguered tenure system, faculty members will finally have a chance to debate the group's findings.

Hartigan's report has spawned a series of three faculty meetings specifically geared to discussion of the tenure system, the first of which began Thursday.

Professors said Wednesday they had a lukewarm response to the report and complained it did not go far enough in suggesting ways to

restructure the much reviled system.

"I might have been receptive to even more radical proposals, but there are some desirable changes still in there," said Rogers Smith, a political science professor.

Although Hartigan's report steered away from the topic of tenure criteria, potential participants in Thursday's discussion said they anticipate a fight over the procedures the junior faculty must follow to gain the coveted security of a tenured position.

Hartigan would not delve into the specifics of possible hot topics but agreed that sparks might fly in the near future.

"There are some proposals that aren't minor and could be considered even a little controversial, but that's pretty much all I can mention," he said.

In addition to protests surrounding tenure criteria, the Hartigan report's suggestions about reducing the length of the tenure process has already drawn fire from some faculty members.

Leon Platinga, director of the Division of Humanities, criticized the report's solution to the bureaucratic handling of letters of inquiry, which junior faculty members must submit to the administration to gauge their tenure prospects.

"The principle about procedure is about how long and cumbersome

it is," Platinga said. "I don't know if the proposal that eliminates the first stage of writing letters of inquiry actually saves us any time."

Pumpkin causes fire at K-State fraternity

The Collegian (Kansas State U.)

(U-WIRE) MANHATTAN, Kan. — A Wednesday afternoon fire caused \$11,000 damage at the Phi Gamma Delta house.

Battalion Chief Jerry Snyder of the Manhattan Fire Department said the fire was caused by a plastic pumpkin on top of a halogen floor lamp that melted onto a couch, igniting the couch.

Jason Graves, senior in management information systems and Fiji president, said he came home after the fire department had arrived. He was informed of the fire by other members.

Snyder estimated the fire burned for 20 to 30 minutes before a Fiji member smelled the smoke in one of the rooms and called the fire department. The room was empty at the time of the fire.

Firefighters used exhaust fans and a positive pressure fan to clear the smoke out of the house.

The room, where five Fiji members kept their belongings, sustained smoke and heat damage. The structural damage was estimated at \$3,500, and damage to contents of the room was estimated at \$7,500.

Shooting victim says he wants to forget attack at Penn State

The Collegian (Pennsylvania State U.)

(U-WIRE) STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Nicholas Mensah, the 22-year-old student wounded in the shooting on the HUB lawn last month, was released from Einstein Hospital in Philadelphia last week and said he is feeling better and trying not to think about the incident.

"I have been through a lot and a lot of pain, but I'm not thinking about the past anymore," Mensah said.

He said he might return to the university for the spring semester.

"If I feel pretty strong, I will return to school. It depends on my condition," Mensah said.

He is resting at his home in Philadelphia.

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Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

DISTURBANCE

After police chased down a 25-year-old man accused of causing a disturbance Wednesday night, they busted him for narcotics possession.

The scene started just after midnight at Grandpa's Ribs and Secret Sauce, 2630 Orchard St., when a customer started a confrontation with the bouncer, Lincoln police Sgt. Ann Herrmann said.

Arther Eichelberger said a customer repeatedly stepped on his feet and challenged him to a fight.

The customer, recognized as Desmond Fowler, was pulled away by his friends and escorted from the bar, Heermann said.

After the bar closed at 1 a.m., Fowler returned, driving his car wildly up to the parking lot and

parking in front of the doors, Heermann said.

Police patrolled the area and found Fowler at 2:04 a.m. in his parked car at 2403 W St., Heermann said.

A search of the car revealed a baggie containing rocks of suspected crack cocaine.

Fowler was arrested and taken to jail where another baggie of suspected crack cocaine was found in his sock.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

A woman suspected of beating her dog attacked police officers investigating the case Wednesday.

Police began investigating after an animal control employee found a 13-year-old collie dying Tuesday

in the backyard of a house on the 600 block of Lakewood Street.

The dog was unconscious, dehydrated and appeared to have been beaten, Heermann said. It was taken to Pitts Veterinary Hospital, where it was put to sleep.

Officer Mark Meyerson went to the residence to issue a citation to the dog's owner, 60-year-old Rosemary Wilkinson, Heermann said.

When Wilkinson came to the door, she tried to run back inside, Heermann said. She then turned and punched Meyerson in the chest four times, Heermann said.

She was arrested and jailed for resisting arrest and assaulting an officer.

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Kazam (PG) (1:30) 3:30-5:30-7:30-9:30

Harriet the Spy (PG) (12:45) 3:00-5:15-7:30-9:40

Hunchback of Notre Dame (1:00) 3:05-5:25-7:25-9:25

Mission Impossible (PG-13) (12:45) 3:00-5:10-7:25-9:40

Twister (PG-13) 2:00-4:45-7:10-9:30

Multiplicity (PG-13) (12:30) 2:45-5:05-7:15-9:35

Independence Day (PG-13) 2:15-5:15-8:15

The Nutty Professor (PG-13) (1:10) 3:10-5:10-7:10-9:10

The Rock (R) 2:30-5:30-8:30

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- 5) → THE LINCOLN
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- 7) → STARSHIP
- 8) → STUART
- 9) → COMING SOON