

AAUP-UNH Opening Statement for March 27, 2025

On behalf of our AAUP-UNH negotiating team and members, we appreciate being here with all of you. We feel honored to represent our members in these important talks. With this statement, we want to frame our priorities for these conversations over the coming months.

AAUP-UNH members have identified our core priorities as: investment in the future, prioritization of student experience, and integration of respect and fairness in strategic planning. These priorities mean that we are focused on a contract that:

- Values faculty as the heart of curricular and research innovation and recognizes faculty as integral to the long-term goals of UNH.
- Prioritizes the role of faculty in shaping and maintaining the UNH student experience (in the traditional classroom; in the field, laboratories, and other research locales; and in our offices and virtual environments).
- Demonstrates a commitment to faculty through strategic decision-making in faculty recruitment and in work environments (e.g., physical and technological infrastructure maintenance and management, professional development, shared governance, and work-life empowerment).

As our own office of Research, Economic Engagement and Outreach noted in this February's announcement that UNH has retained its R1 classification, "[d]esignation as an R1 university gives UNH more than bragging rights: It helps us attract talented students and faculty and it indicates to funding agencies, academic partners and business and industry that UNH has the capacity to conduct high-quality research and education. It's a powerful testament to the innovative, high-impact work of our researchers, who are at the heart of our mission to drive innovation and tackle the most pressing challenges of our time."¹

Ashby Kinch, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, added, "[t]he Carnegie [R1] designation affirms for the state, region, nation and world what we already know: UNH is a small but mighty research powerhouse that serves as a destination for excellent faculty and graduate students, who inspire their undergraduate students to do meaningful work that improves society."²

When President Chilton welcomed faculty at the beginning of this academic year, she noted that, "[t]his is an amazing university, with stellar educational programs, research, and creative activities."³

Our negotiating team looks forward to working with all of you to craft a contract that not only sustains the UNH excellence we've developed together over the last 159 years but also invests and grows UNH with an eye toward maintaining our excellence into the next 150 years.

¹ Feb 18, 2025 email from REEO (LAUNCH newsletter)

² Feb 13, 2025 UNH Today post <https://www.unh.edu/unhtoday/2025/02/unh-retains-carnegie-r1-classification>

³ Aug 19, 2024 email from President's office (Welcome Back Faculty)