Local Briefs: UW-Stout files for union elections

MENOMONIE — The faculty at UW-Stout recently filed a petition with the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission requesting union representation through AFT-Wisconsin.

As required by state law, members of the faculty union organizing committees collected cards signed by their colleagues requesting WERC to administer the election. The cards were signed by more than 70 percent of faculty.

The next step in the process is for WERC to set election dates. If a majority of voting faculty cast their ballots in favor of collective bargaining representation through AFT-Wisconsin, a local union will be formed and the campus bargaining committee will begin the process of contract negotiations.

Faculty at UW-River Falls and UW-Stevens Point also recently filed similar petitions.

UW-La Crosse also filed for a union election earlier this month. UW-Eau Claire and UW-Superior voted in favor of union representation in spring 2010. Collective bargaining rights were extended to faculty and academic staff in the 2009-2011 state budget.