The following are transcripts of 22 news reports aired between July 18, 2011 and August 26, 2011 by public radio station WCMU covering an ongoing dispute between the faculty and administration at Central Michigan University.

01 - CMU - FA request fact finding - 07-18-11
02 - FA Meeting1
03 - FA Meeting
04 - CMU- Faculty Vote Results
05 - Union and Administration resume talks
06 - CMU-FAnegotiations-Day1
07 - CMU- FA negotiations
08 - CMU - FA negotiations2
09 - CMU-FA day2
10 - noon live 8-18-11
11 - CMU Faculty negotiations continue
12 - CMU-Faculty negotiations continue-UPDATE
13 - Live- NewscastTranscript
14 - CMU -FA on Strike
15 - CMU - FA on strike-MPRN
16 - FA strike - student reax
17 - CMU seeks court injunction
18 - CMU strike - Ross- Noon
19 - CMU-FA strike- Ross
20 - CMU FA Ordered back to work
21 - CMU-FA Procedures
22 - CMU - FA injunction ruling
After nearly three-months of negotiations and three meetings with a mediator, contract talks between CMU and its faculty union will go to a fact-finder.

The University says it requested fact finding after the most recent mediation session failed to result in "meaningful progress."

In its most recent proposal, the University says, it’s offered salary increases equal to 4.0 percent over a three-year contract.

The faculty association, it says, is asking for 9-point-8-percent over the same time frame.
Central Michigan University faculty are emerging from a closed door meeting this evening. With one week left before the start of classes, FA voting on a possible job action against the University.

we hear that ballots are reportedly being counted to determine whether or not the union will launch a job action in the wake of stalled negotiations with the University. to discuss whether or not to take job action after negotiations with the college have stalled..

Amanda Harrison is there, Amanda are there any new developments?

No. About an hour ago, some faculty members went into this room behind me at the Comfort Inn in Mt Pleasant.

They’re discussing what if any action to take after months of negotiation, but little progress, in contract talks with the University

Of course, one concern is if the union votes to strike, the start of classes could be affected

Union Presidents says at this point anything is possible.

(all options on the table....) - possible SB

Steve Smith is a spokesperson for Central Michigan University. He says he’s optimistic that classes will start on time. He says the CMU administration stands ready to negotiate with the union.

NOTE: THIS IS A TRANSCRIPTION OF A LIVE SEGMENT WHICH AIRED DURING “ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.”
Tr #4 // “....at this point” :07
“We stand ready to talk to the faculty association at any time they have not approached us at this point.”

(In previous statements) the union says the administration walked away from the bargaining table.

Both sides in the dispute have called for an independent fact finder.

Q - Any idea how long this meeting will last?

A - don't know at this point. The only time reference we've heard is that the union booked this conference room until 9:00 tonight.

(amy) Amanda, thank you.
The fate of whether or not classes begin next Monday at CMU now rests in the hands of seven people.

The faculty voted last night to authorize its bargaining committee to take any action it deems necessary -- up to and including a strike.

Amanda Harrison reports.

######################################################

Hundreds of CMU faculty gathered at the Comfort Inn last night. In the end, 97% of the membership voted to authorize their bargaining committee to take any action it feels is necessary to reach a new contract with the university.

Tim Connors is the former union president. He says now, the type and timing of any job action is all in the hands of the bargaining team.

**Connors**-

“We gave them the authority tonight to call for a job action, not to call for a vote for a job action, not to say is this what you want to do. We authorized them to say it’s time to take a job action and here is the job action we are going to take.”

Connors says the bargaining team has offered to meet with the Central Michigan University Administration to continue negotiations.

A university spokesman is calling last night’s vote a positive development. He says it’s the first time since mid July the faculty bargaining team as formally requested that negotiations resume between the two sides.

Smith says the two sides could meet again this week, perhaps as early as today.

SOQ
After negotiations stalled in July, the Central Michigan Faculty Association voted last night to allow its bargaining team to decide what action the union will take next.

Laura Frey is the president of the union. She says the contract currently offered by the administration would significantly reduce pay and benefits and thus, the quality of the teachers.

She says ultimately students will suffer the most.

“...to the table”:
“To me the administration has shown to me how little they care about faculty and how little they care about students. I have been stating in interviews since July 14th when the third mediation session ended that our FA bargaining team wants to come back to the table.”

A university spokesman is calling last night’s vote a “positive development”. He says it’s the first time since mid July the faculty bargaining team as formally requested that negotiations resume between the two sides.

He says the two sides could meet again this week, perhaps as early as today.
The CMU Faculty Association voted almost unanimously last night to allow its bargaining team to decide any and all job actions for the union. That means seven people now have control over the start of classes next Monday.

The president of the faculty union says Central Michigan University has proposed unfair cuts to workers’ contracts and are refusing to compromise.

The University says it’s working to the best of its ability within tight budget constraints.

The union formally asked the administration last night to return to the bargaining table.

CMU Spokesman Steve Smith called last night’s vote quote - a “positive development”

“Tr # ....resume for negotiations”:
“This is the first time since both the university and the faculty association filed for fact finding back in mid July that the faculty team formally requested that both sides resume for negotiation.”

Smith says the two sides could meet again this week, perhaps as early as today.

The union says teachers are being asked to continue preparing for the start of classes on Monday.
Contract negotiations between the Central Michigan University and its Faculty Administration may resume as early as today.

This comes after what was largely an unexpected move. Last night, the faculty union voted to give its the bargaining team the final decision on any future job action.

Amanda Harrison reports.

The university says last night’s union vote was a “positive development” because in addition to empowering the 7-member bargaining team with any and all job action decision, it also formally requested that CMU once again join the union at the bargaining table. CMU says this is the first time since mid July that the faculty requested that negotiations resume.

The union insists that CMU is quote “financially flourishing” and should be able to afford a more generous offer.

But CMU spokesmen Steve Smith says that’s not the case.

**Smith-**

“Numerous matters still remain unresolved, most significantly is a compensation and benefits package that they have proposed that costs approximately 10 million dollars. This comes on the heels of a 12 million dollar reduction in state appropriations.”

However the dollar and cents work out Smith says the good news is the two sides are once again talking. He says negotiations are likely to begin this week; possibly as early as today.

SOQ
Central Michigan University professors remain on the job today -- despite being without a contract since June 30th.

But as WCMU’s Mike Horace reports, the faculty has authorized a strike at a moment’s notice...

CMUVote15-w1.wav / … SOQ @ 0:50

Professors are preparing for the start of the fall semester, but whether they’ll be in classrooms on Monday remains to be seen.

The faculty voted last night to authorize its bargaining committee to take any action it deems necessary -- up to and including a strike.

Tim Conners is the immediate past president of the CMU Faculty Association...

Conners15-1 (0:14)

“\textit{We gave them the authority tonight to call a job action. Not to call a vote for a job action, Not to say \textquote{is this what you want to do?}\textquote{We authorized them to say \textquote{it’s time to take a job action, and here is the job action we are going to take.}}"}

A university spokesman is calling the vote a positive development, noting that the bargaining committee has formally requested that negotiations resume between the two sides.

... SOQ.
The start of classes at Central Michigan University is now in the hands of seven people.

Faculty members voted last night to authorize their bargaining committee to take any action it deems necessary to reach a new contract with the university -- up to and including a strike.

The union also made a formal request for the university to return to the bargaining table.

University spokesman Steve Smith called that - quote - “a positive development.”

“This is the first time since both the university and the faculty association filed for fact finding back in mid-July that the faculty bargaining team has formally requested that both sides resume negotiations.”

The faculty association is advising its members to prepare for the start of the fall semester, as negotiations between the two sides resume.

Classes are scheduled to begin on Monday.
Central Michigan University professors and administrators have returned to the bargaining table -- trying to reach an agreement on a new contract before the start of the fall semester.

The two sides last met in mid-July.

Faculty members voted last night to authorize their bargaining committee to declare job action -- up to and including a strike -- if the negotiations break down.

Professors have been without a contract since June 30th. The fall semester is scheduled to start on Monday.
With less than a week left until the start of classes, negotiators from CMU and its faculty union are scheduled to return to the bargaining table today at 11:30.

The two sides met yesterday for five hours and, in the words of the union, it was disappointing.

The Faculty union membership voted on Monday to authorize its bargaining team to take any job action it deems necessary -- up to and including a strike.

Union spokesman and past president Tim Connors said last night that from where he’s sitting, they may not be far from calling for a job action:

Tr # 09 // “...some kind of activity” :22
this is just me, the bargaining team has not said anything to me about this, so this is, again, I'm speaking for myself. I would imagine if tomorrow's session goes the way that today's apparently did, that I wouldn’t at all be surprised to see some kind of activity.”

Connors says if an action is called for he doesn’t know what type of action it may be.

In the meantime, CMU Spokesman Steve Smith had a more positive take on the current negotiating process.

Tr # 10 // “... a positive sign” :10
“It’s important that we give the collective bargaining process a chance to work. the fact that both sides are returning to the bargaining table should be viewed as a positive sign.”

Negotiators are scheduled to return to the bargaining table today at 11:30 in Ronan Hall on the campus of CMU.
CMU – FA negotiations – ATC
110816

5:30 - READER using information from FA press release

6:00 - C&C using sound from Tim Connors / Past pres FA

6:30 – C&C using sound from Steve Smith / University spokesman
CMU – FA negotiations – Morning Ed
110817

6:30 / 7:06 n / 7:30 / 8:30 : READER pulled from FA press release
After what the union called a “disappointing bargaining session yesterday, negotiators from CMU and it’s faculty union were back at it today.

The two sides began talks at 11:30 this morning. Right now, there’s no word on any updates.

Laura Frey is the President of the Faculty Association. She says the two sides have considerable work to do.

TR #10 // “...to find common ground” :33
“It would be nice if we were on the path of common ground. The bargaining session yesterday, from what the FA bargaining team has reported back to us, is the administration made no forward movement in wanting to revisit a comprehensive set of rollbacks. A take it or leave it. This is the package. And when the administration comes to the table with that type of attitude, it is very hard to find common ground”

CMU Spokesman Steve Smith says the University is bargaining while also dealing with a difficult economy which has already affected other employee groups.

TR #11 // “... in the state this year” :21
“Over the past year and a half eight of ten employee groups on campus already have taken a one-year wage freeze. Two of those groups are beginning a second year. These employees are making the shared sacrifices so as not to unfairly burden our students and their families. It also allowed CMU to keep
adjustments to tuition at the lowest level in the state this year.”

On Monday, the faculty union members authorized it’s bargaining team to order any job action that it deems necessary - up to an including a strike. Yesterday, the past president of the faculty union told CMU Public radio that if today’s talks go the way that yesterday’s apparently did, he “wouldn’t at all be surprised to see some kind of activity.”

Again, there’s no word at this hour on what- if any- progress was made in today’s talks.
Negotiations are continuing (will continue today); the threat of a strike, still alive; as Central Michigan University met today (will meet again) with its faculty union.

Union President Laura Frey says although there are a number of issues on the table, university finances continue to be a point of contention.

"Central Michigan University is financially flourishing, at least 228-million in unrestricted surplus assets, a fund equity balance that continues to increase, total assets have continued to increase. It is extremely frustrating to me that the administration has the money to pay all employee groups a fair, comparable salaries, give them increases and has chosen not to do that. That's the stress to watch an administration disrespect faculty, disrespect employees”

University spokesman Steve Smith says CMU is interested in reaching an agreement with its faculty, but has some real financial challenges to address as well.

“I think it’s important to point out that CMU took a $12-million cut in appropriations from the state of Michigan this year. It puts us back at a funding level equal to what we received in 1996 and ‘97. Economic times remain uncertain and it makes it important that the University continue its fiscally conservative approach. It’s important in providing a superior learning..."
environment for our students. We remain committed to working with the Faculty Association to resolve our differences”

Today will be the third day of negotiations since the two sides returned to the bargaining table this week.

On Monday, the faculty union membership voted overwhelmingly to authorize it’s bargaining team to call for any job action it deems necessary, up to and including a strike.

Classes are scheduled to start at CMU on Monday.
“I’m always optimistic. I’m a half-full kind of guy, and so I’m hoping that there will be progress. I want to teach on Monday. I want to be in my classes. I love my students”.
Today marks the third day of renewed negotiations between Central Michigan University and its faculty union. At last report there is no agreement on a new contract.

As Mike Horace reports, faculty members were holding informational pickets on campus today (Thursday)...

Dozens of professors held signs and passed out fliers on campus... as students started moving back into the dorms.

Tim Connors is the former president of the faculty association. He says little progress has been made in negotiations... but he is optimistic...

"I'm always optimistic, I'm a half full kind of guy. And so I'm hoping that there will be progress. I want to teach on Monday. I want to be in my classes. I love my students."

The union has already authorized its bargaining team to declare a work action -- up to and including a strike.

CMU Provost Gary Shapiro hopes it won't come to that...

"I'm confident that they'll be in our classrooms on Monday, our students will begin learning, and we'll continue to work this out for a mutually satisfactory agreement."

The start of classes should become more clear Sunday night, when a meeting of all faculty union members is planned.

... SOQ.
Central Michigan University faculty members were on campus holding informational pickets today (Thursday), as students were moving into the dorms and negotiations continue between their union and the university.

Both sides admit that many issues are still on the table, waiting to be resolved.

Not all of the picketers are members of the faculty union...

**Tr. 15 // “... the favor.” // TRT: 0:25**

Collins

“My name’s Tracy Collins, and I teach in the English Department. I’m out here holding a sign today in support of the tenure-track faculty. I’m actually a lecturer here at CMU, and I’m a member of the ATF, the newly formed non-tenure track faculty union. And when we were not on strike last spring, but were trying to form our own union, there were many tenure-track faculty who were out there, holding signs in support of us. So this afternoon, I’m returning the favor.”

The university says it is optimistic that an agreement can be reached before the start of classes on Monday.

Provost Gary Shapiro says negotiations are ongoing...

**Tr. 16 // “... association’s side.” // TRT: 0:13**

Shapiro18-2

“During those discussions, the university’s position has shown some flexibility. We’d be willing to compromise on certain areas. Unfortunately, in our perception, we haven’t seen the same willingness to compromise on the faculty association’s side.”

The two sides are meeting this afternoon, and negotiations could continue through the weekend.
Central Michigan University faculty and administrators are still trying to avoid a strike, as the clock ticks down towards the start of the fall semester.

Bargaining teams from both sides were meeting today (Thursday) for the third time this week -- trying to hash out a deal.

C-M-U provost Gary Shapiro says he is confident classes will begin on time Monday morning...

**Tr. 17 // “... in the classrooms.” // TRT: 0:04**

Shapiro18-3

“I believe the faculty will place the interests of our students first, and they’ll be in the classrooms.”

But the faculty association isn’t so sure classes will start on time.

Former union president Tim Connors was leading an informational picket on campus today (Thursday). He says a work action could be declared at any time...

**Tr. 18 // “... a work stoppage.” // TRT: 0:09**

Connors18-3

“And that could range everywhere from more informational picketing, like we’re doing today, all the way up to and including a work stoppage.”

Union leaders have scheduled a membership meeting for Sunday evening. A decision about the start of classes Monday should become more clear at that time.
A state mediator will arrive on the campus of CMU this morning to oversee negotiations between the University and its faculty union.

Bargaining teams from both sides met yesterday for about 90-minutes. It was the third bargaining session this week.

C-M-U provost Gary Shapiro says he remains confident that classes will begin on time Monday morning...

Tr. 17 // “... in the classrooms.” // TRT: 0:04  
Shapiro18-3  
“I believe the faculty will place the interests of our students first, and they’ll be in the classrooms.”

The faculty union continues to hold the treat of a strike over the University. The union membership voted earlier this week to authorize it’s bargaining team to take whatever job action it deems necessary

Former union president Tim Connors says a work action could be declared at any time...

Tr. 18 // “... a work stoppage.” // TRT: 0:09  
Connors18-3  
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As Mike Horace reports, faculty members launched informational pickets on campus yesterday as student were returning for the fall semester.

Dozens of professors held signs and passed out fliers on campus... as students started moving back into the dorms.

Tim Connors is the former president of the faculty association. He says little progress has been made in negotiations... but he is optimistic...

Connors18-2 (0:11)
“‖I’m always optimistic, I’m a half full kind of guy. And so I’m hoping that there will be progress. I want to teach on Monday. I want to be in my classes. I love my students.”

The union has already authorized its bargaining team to declare a work action -- up to and including a strike.

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Shapiro18-1 (0:08)
“I’m confident that they'll be in our classrooms on Monday, our students will begin learning, and we’ll continue to work this out for a mutually satisfactory agreement.”

The start of classes should become more clear Sunday night, when a meeting of all faculty union members is planned.

... SOQ.
HORACE: Good evening, I’m Mike Horace with a CMU Public Radio news update.

[Audio: Crowd chanting “What do we want? A contract. When do we want it? Now.”]

HORACE: That was the scene outside Mount Pleasant High School less than an hour ago, as the CMU Faculty Association walked out on strike. They have been without a contract since June 30th. Faculty Association President Laura Frey called it a full work stoppage.

[Audio: (Frey) “The tenure-track faculty at Central Michigan University will not be teaching classes. We are responding to the fact that the CMU administration has continued unfair labor practices and continued to not bargain in good faith. We are on an association approved, legal job action, full work stoppage.”]

HORACE: That was CMU Faculty Association President Laura Frey just a few moments ago. CMU Public Radio’s Amy Robinson joins me on the line now. Amy, what are you hearing from the administration at this hour?

ROBINSON: Well, Mike, we don’t have a comment yet from the administration. I’m actually standing outside of university communications, where a spokesman, at some point this evening, will issue a statement. They’re compiling that information and composing their statement right now. Now the most recent information we have from the university came in a press release yesterday, in which they indicated that substantial progress had been made on non-economic issues, non-economic issues I stress, during the negotiations. However, the state mediator who had been called in to oversee yesterday’s negotiation indicated that both sides remained significantly apart on compensation and benefits. The two sides have met five times since Monday, again with the state mediator yesterday, but things failed to progress at that point. At this point, the faculty tells us no new negotiations are planned.

HORACE: Amy, what does this mean for students, that are of course scheduled to be in classes tomorrow morning?

ROBINSON: And they are being told to report to classes, because, as you know Mike, and as many people are familiar, as we’ve covered this story through the week, this job action pertains to tenure-track faculty, tenured faculty on the campus of CMU, which is 600 plus faculty members, but certainly not all of the faculty members on this campus. Some classes will have faculty teaching who are not in this union, who are not on strike. And since students may not know who their instructor is, on the first day of classes, they’re being told to report to classes. And Mike, I’m going to mention, just a few moments ago, I spoke with some students at Caulkins Hall, a couple of freshman who had heard about the job action. And while there were many students apparently in
support of the faculty when the announcement was made at the high school, these students that I spoke to here on the campus of CMU were already expressing the other view, saying that they’ve paid a lot of money for their classes and that they want them to go. And so, they were disappointed that the faculty voted to strike. We’ll continue to follow this story. We’ll have reaction from students, we’ll have information from the union, and Mike, as soon as it becomes available, we’ll have comment from administration as well, here from the campus of Central Michigan University.

HORACE: CMU Public Radio’s Amy Robinson live on the campus of CMU. Amy, thank you. Recapping our breaking news this evening, the CMU Faculty Association has walked out on strike. This affects tenure-track faculty at CMU, about 600 of them total. We will have much more on this developing story tomorrow morning on Morning Edition. David Nicholas is your local host, beginning at 5 a-m.
Central Michigan University professors walked off the job last night -- just hours before the start of the fall semester.

As Mike Horace reports, university administrators say progress was made on non-economic issues over the last few days -- but the two sides remain far apart when it comes to compensation and benefits.

Laura Frey (FRY) is the faculty union president...

\[ Frey21-1 (0:09) \]
\[ “We are on an association approved, legal job action, full work stoppage.” \]

University spokesman Steve Smith disagrees about the legality of work stoppage. He says the university will take the union to court this morning...

\[ Smith21-1 (0:13) \]
\[ “Strikes by public employees over economic issues are illegal under Michigan law, and that is why we will seek an injunction in Isabella County to get the faculty back in the classroom.” \]

Smith says the two sides had made progress on non-economic issues in recent days -- something the union has not confirmed.

Students are being told to report to class this morning.

\[ … SOQ. \]
Central Michigan University professors walked off the job last night -- after months of failed negotiations over a new contract.

C-M-U Faculty Association president Laura Frey addressed students after the union’s announcement last night. She says professors went on strike with students' best interests in mind...

“We stand behind your right to a quality education, and a foundation of that is quality faculty.”

C-M-U Administrators are calling the strike quote “illegal,” saying Michigan law prevents public employees from striking over economic issues.

The university is expected in court this morning, asking a judge to order professors back to work.

Students are being told to report to classes as scheduled.
Central Michigan University professors are on strike this morning, after months of failed contract negotiations.

Compensation and benefits have major sticking points between the two sides.

Faculty representatives say the strike is legal -- but university spokesman Steve Smith disagrees.

He says Michigan law prevents public employees from striking over economic issues...

"Central Michigan University is obviously disappointed that members of the CMU Faculty Association have voted to engage in an illegal work stoppage. It creates an unfair disruption to the start of the academic year for the approximately 21,000 students that are on campus and ready to commence a new year."

Smith says the university will be in court this morning, asking a judge to force professors to return to work.

Union officials say that move was expected, and they are prepared to defend their position.

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Around the campus of CMU, students have mixed feelings about the work stoppage.

Some are excited about the possibility of having no class, while others are worried that they may go to class this morning and have no teacher.

John Ketchum has more.

CMU students are gearing up for their first day of class today. But a lot of students are uncertain now of how the day will pan out. Some are debating if they’ll even go to class.

Laneer Turner is a sophomore from Detroit. He says he’s still undecided.

“I think it would be a waste of time to go to class and to find no teacher there, but it might be appropriate to get up and go. I think we’re the ones who are really getting hurt here, because we’re not getting the education that we’re paying for and that we deserve”.

Other students like Detroit Sophomore Jacob Carter say they’re taking no chances.

He says the fact that only tenured faculty are striking may be confusing to students in terms of which classes they should attend.

“I mean it’s just like you go to class, you might not have it, but we want you to go anyway. I mean I’ll go just to be on the safe side.”

Some students are also saying that they want a tuition refund for any class time they may miss due to the faculty walk out.
With tenured faculty striking today, it’s turning into a game of sides for students. Some support the faculty. Others are irritated with them.

Tina Ristovski (riss-toff-skee) is a junior from Southgate Michigan. She says she supports the faculty.

“Because I honestly think that the faculty is right with what they’re doing. I don’t think that they should have their pay cut”

Students like Junior Michelle Johnson of Lansing think differently.

“I think I’m more frustrated with the faculty. I mean we’re not getting $12 million from the state anymore, cuts have to come from somewhere, and I wouldn’t want it to come from stuff that we need. I mean I know we need to make money but.

Where ever they weigh in, students are being reminded to report to classes this morning.
CMU seeks court injunction/students should report for classes; Staff should report for work

Central Michigan University is disappointed that members of the CMU Faculty Association have voted to engage in an illegal work stoppage. This action creates an unfair disruption to the start of the academic year for CMU’s students.

CMU students should report for classes Monday and staff should report for work. CMU’s 439 fixed-term faculty and 591 graduate assistants will still hold classes as scheduled.

The impact of the FA’s action places an irreparable and unfair burden on students who want to graduate in a timely fashion, pursue graduate school or launch successful careers. As such, on Monday CMU will request an injunction from Isabella County Circuit Court and an order for faculty to return to class.

CMU remains committed to working with the FA toward a contract that is fair and equitable to all parties. CMU and the FA have both petitioned for fact-finding, which is the appropriate process under Michigan law to follow in coming to terms on a collective bargaining agreement.

CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity and provide equal opportunity within its community.

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The fall semester is off to a bumpy start at CMU where some 600 faculty union members are striking today as students return to the classroom.

The University calls the strike illegal and has filed for a court injunction to order the instructors back to work.

University President George Ross held a press conference this morning to address the situation.

He repeatedly encouraged people to ‘read the documents’, suggesting that comments made by union leaders have at times been misleading.

Dr. Ross says CMU Administration been willing to return to the bargaining table and only left over the weekend at the insistence of the state mediator who ended talks when the two sides failed to make progress on economic issues.

Dr. Ross says CMU remains committed to reaching agreement with its faculty union

TR # 06 // “...When I read words about union busting... this is about shared sacrifice”

Dr. Ross notes that both sides in the dispute filed for fact finding back in July. He says they’ve been trying to locate a fact finder and will hopefully have one identified soon.

In the meantime, student at CMU are being encouraged to go to classes
The one-day strike of CMU’s faculty association is, at least temporarily over.

Earlier today, CMU President George Ross spoke to reporters about the walkout.

During what has been a fluid situation, he stressed the importance of people checking and double checking facts. He says the union leadership has not been straightforward with students.

Contrary to the misleading statements that came from the President of the FA, we did not walk away from the bargaining table. At least be honest in the debate and I don’t think they have been honest in the debate.

Dr. Ross said today/ yesterday that students “have to get back to class”. If the walkout continued too long it could begin to jeopardize student’s eligibility for intercollegiate sports and even for financial aid.

CMU Public radio news repeatedly contacted the faculty association today to reply to Dr. Ross’ charges. But they declined to comment.
As CMU faculty prepare to return to classrooms today, the University is breathing a sigh of relief on more than one front.

CMU President Dr. George Ross held a press conference yesterday.

He said the walk out could have caused a domino effects of complications; affecting things like athletics and financial aid.

“Let me tell you what I know. There are a minimum number of teaching days required in order for our intercollegiate athletes to stay eligible. We’ve got to get back to class. It could have an adverse effect on our ability to play intercollegiate sports. It could have an adverse affect on our ability to issue financial aid because there are certain requirements by the federal government.”

Dr. Ross says the faculty association was defending its work stoppage with false information.

He says union claims that administration walked away from the bargaining table were untrue. The faculty association didn’t reply to our request for comment.
An Isabella County judge has issued a temporary restraining order against striking Central Michigan University professors, ordering them back into their classrooms.

The order came this (Monday) afternoon, less than 24-hours after tenured and tenure-track professors walked off the job.

Robert Vercruysse (ver-coo-see) is an attorney for the university. He praised the court order…

Tr. 12 // “… been completed.” // TRT: 0:15
“The judge is an independent judge, who took a look at the pleadings, and the complaint, that says essentially what the Michigan law is, that public employees can't engage in a strike. Particularly here, where the bargaining process hasn't been completed.”

The faculty union maintains that the strike is legal, however, professors will follow the judge's order and return to classrooms tomorrow (Tuesday).

The union is expected in court Friday morning, to argue that the restraining order should be lifted.
Faculty at CMU were in the classroom today (yesterday) - after a walk-out yesterday (Monday) when the union declared a full work stoppage. Instructors were ordered back to the classroom when a judge filed a temporary restraining order yesterday (Monday) afternoon.

Now the faculty and the university are likely preparing for a number of pending actions.

Both sides will be in court Friday as the judge that ordered faculty back to work will hear arguments for and against a permanent injunction ending the strike.

Then on September 7, both sides will present their cases to a fact finder. He'll examine the evidence and make a non-binding recommendation on how negotiations may proceed.

And at some point, officials say, in the near future, the two sides will appear before the Michigan Employment Relations Commission - the M.E.R.C. to discuss the legality of the walk-out,

Ruth Ann Okun (oak-en) is director of the MERC.

She says there is a narrow parameter that may make the work-stoppage legal.

“...in fact that was illegal” :

“In general strikes by public employees are illegal, that’s always been the case. But there was some language in, I believe it was, a court of appeals case some time ago that left a little bit of a door open as to whether striking in protest of an unfair labor practice, whether in face that was illegal.”

There were no new talks today (yesterday) in the faculty dispute (yesterday) but also no new pickets or protests.

Again, the next scheduled activity will be the circuit court appearance on Friday.
“The judge might refrain from making a ruling on certain things before he has some type of determination from the Administrative Law judge or the commission”
“It’s not that unusual. It’s not that unusual, from time to time we do get cases, especially at this time of the year, when school is starting both in the public context as well as the University context. We get situations like this and things often take place in different forums”
In Isabella county today (Friday), a circuit court judge continued the injunction against striking CMU faculty. Under the ruling, the instructors cannot strike against the University, but they can picket on their own time.

Both sides are calling the decision a victory.

The union says it restores member’s first amendment rights. The University say it clears the way for the two sides to reach an agreement through fact finding.

CMU faculty walked off the job on the first day of classes, Monday (August 22) after talks with administration stalled. They returned to classrooms the following day under court order.

The union is accusing CMU of bargaining in bad faith. The University says the two sides have made progress on non-economic issues, but are far apart on wages and benefits.

A fact finder has been assigned to hear the dispute. The first meeting is scheduled for September 7th,