



University of Washington chapter
**American Association of
University Professors**

Historic Victory in Duane Storti's Lawsuit

In 2003, Associate Professor Duane Storti (Mechanical Engineering) sued the University charging that President McCormick had violated the Faculty Code when he refused to allocate funds for the 2% annual merit salary increase that is guaranteed as part of University salary policy. On March 17, 2006 the University of Washington Regents agreed to settle the case. The settlement restores the lost 2% raise and awards \$17.45 million in back pay to more than 3,000 faculty members. Most importantly, the settlement and the Oct 25, 2005 summary judgment by Superior Court Judge Mary Yu establish that the Faculty Code (University Handbook) is an enforceable contract and cannot be ignored just because the administration finds it to be inconvenient. This is an historic victory that will shape governance at the University of Washington and potentially other schools for decades to come.