

<The third circular on the housing problem>

## **Withdraw the "plan to abolish staff housing"!**

### **Interview with the President revealed inconsistencies in the explanation!**

The Hokkaido University Workers Union held a meeting with President Houkin on December 24, 2021, which also focused on the issue of abolishing staff housing. We were concerned that the university might be trying to get rid of the houses for the sake of "asset management." The President said, "There is no direct connection between asset management and the abolition of the houses, and what we are specifically considering as asset management is the redevelopment of the (Sapporo) South Campus" (therefore, the Central No. 1 and No. 2 Quarters are related!), "The abolition of the houses does not have much economic benefit. We have no intention of selling the assets, we have not decided how to use them after the abolition". If asset management has nothing to do with the abolition of housing, then why did the university make such a plan so hastily to abolish housing?

### **No rationale for the abolition plan!**

The president said, "The university has been considering the abolition of staff houses since the time of the previous president. The reason we are in such a hurry is that we want to finish the housing issue during my term of presidency." The negative effects of top-down management have been pointed out in national universities after their incorporation, and it has become clear here that there is no rational basis for the abolition of houses, and it is possible that this measure will only bring about unnecessary conflicts. If the university decides to abolish the housing, a large number of faculty members will be affected (estimated 250 households = hundreds to nearly 1,000 faculty members and their families). According to individual cases from the feedback received by the union, the president did not seem to have a sufficient grasp of the actual situation of the faculty members living in the houses. The Union intends to appeal the irrationality of the abolition through another meeting with the president scheduled in the future and through collective negotiations.

### **Demand "withdrawal" through collective negotiations!**

In the university's "Reply" to the union's "Enquiry" of November 16 last year, in the above-mentioned meeting with the president, and in the report on the "basic policy" at the liaison meeting of department heads, the university still has not clarified the whole picture of the plan to abolish the staff houses. Therefore, on January 14, the Union called for collective negotiations, demanding for (1) an explanation of the current plan to abolish the houses, (2) a rational explanation of the reasons for abolishing the houses (including the policy for use after abolition and the economic rationale), and (3) a withdrawal of the "basic policy" presented by the university, and the establishment of some sort of "joint council" including representatives of the Union to prepare a new comprehensive plan on the housing issue.

### **Mobilize the power of the united for mass collective negotiations!**

The Hokkaido University Workers Union will continue to provide information through the Union website and other means, so please send your opinions and requests to the Union secretary's office by e-mail. We intend to show such voices to the university authorities in collective negotiations. If you become a member of the union, you can also participate in the negotiations and deliver your voice directly to the university. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to join the Union. We look forward very much to your cooperation.

\* Union website: University materials, including "Basic Policy (Draft)," "Results of the Research on Housing," and the "Enquiry" submitted by the Union and the university's "Reply".

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