



View this newsletter online



Union News

Vol. 7, Issue 1 | September 2016

Contract Negotiations Status Report :

From CSU-AAUP President and Chief Negotiator Elena Tapia:

Our last negotiations session with the CSCU-BOR team was May 5, 2016. We were scheduled to meet on May 19, but the BOR team cancelled. The two chief negotiators, Mr. Steven Weinberger for the BOR and myself, did meet on May, 9, 2016 to sign off on all of our tentative agreements negotiated so far.

Most state employee contracts were due to expire on June 30, 2016, while our date was August 25, 2016. Following Connecticut General Statute 5-278a, which authorizes collective bargaining units to negotiate extensions, CSU-AAUP signed a Contract Extension Agreement on July 19, 2016. You can read the agreement and a list of questions and answers about it at the CSU-AAUP [website](#).

We'll start negotiating again this fall. Although none of our team members has a course reduction, each one has agreed to continue in this most important endeavor. *Please thank them and wish them well when you see them!*

As you might have heard, the State of Connecticut is not in great financial shape, and this situation has affected the bargaining process for everyone. This fall, we will continue to negotiate, and we will continue to need your support. The hope is to have a negotiated contract ready to submit to the legislature sometime during its next session, which begins January 4, 2017.

As you also might have heard, this is an election year. One way that you can help with the success of a negotiated contract is to [contact your legislators](#) and legislative candidates who you support. Tell them about the value of the work that we do and how our work with students keeps CSU grads in the state. Our negotiations campaign committee will be offering various ways for you to show your support for a fair contract. Be sure to play a role in the success of your own contract.

Learn How to Lobby with Gallo & Robinson:

With the continued decline of state funding for higher education, learning the art of lobbying can be a valuable skill for anyone interested in advocating for quality public higher education. [The Connecticut Lobbying Conference](#), being held in Hartford on Oct. 6, 2016, offers insights and advice from state legislators and staffers on how to be an effective lobbyist, as well as hands-on workshops covering everything from how to pass or kill a bill, working with legislative staff, and lobbying the executive branch. Legislators attending include [Sen. Beth Bye](#), chairperson of the Appropriations Committee, and Rep. [Joe Aresimowicz](#), current Majority Leader who is favored to become the new Speaker of the House. Also attending is [Sen. Kevin Witkos](#), ranking member of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

Organized by veteran lobbying firm [Gallo & Robinson](#), the conference includes lunch and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in attending the conference, please contact your local AAUP campus chapter office or call 860-832-3790.

Special Funds for Full and Part-Time Members:

The [CSU-AAUP Collective Bargaining Agreement](#), provides several different categories of special funds most of which are available to both full and part-time faculty, but some of which are restricted. Please check with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, your local AAUP Chapter, or human resources to determine the type of special funds for which you may be eligible. The categories of special funds include: conference and workshop (travel); faculty development; research grants; curriculum-related activities; minority recruitment and retention; and retraining funds.

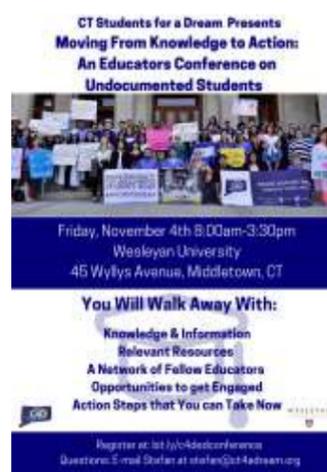
Please check with your local AAUP chapter office, your department chairperson, your Dean, or your Provost to confirm application procedures and deadline dates as these vary by campus.

These are the same funds that were threatened in the original contract proposal made by the Board of Regents when negotiations began in October 2015.

CT Dreamers Hold 3rd Educators Conference:

CSU-AAUP members are invited to attend Connecticut Students for a Dream's third annual Educators Conference Nov. 4 at Wesleyan University in Middletown. Starting at 8 a.m., this day-long conference brings together teachers, counselors, college staff, and access program leaders to learn about education and immigration, gain practical skills, and take action to advocate with undocumented students. This is a great space to meet other supportive educators and glean best practices. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. [Click here for more information](#) or to register.

On Sept. 15, CSU-AAUP Council will likely vote to pay the registration for a certain number of our members from each campus. Check with your chapter president.



Promotion and Tenure and Renewals:

Many CSU-AAUP members are up for Renewal, Promotion and Tenure, and Professional Assessment this fall. Please note the following deadlines for submitting relevant materials to the Department Evaluation Committee for consideration:

- Candidates for Promotion must turn in their submissions by Oct. 20.
- Penultimate Year Tenure candidates appointed in January, must submit materials by Oct. 10.
- Penultimate Year Tenure candidates appointed in August must submit materials by Oct. 20.
- Second-year Renewals appointed in January must submit materials by Oct. 20.
- Faculty up for Professional Assessment must submit materials by Nov. 1.

Note: SCSU has a different calendar for submissions. Please [click here](#) to see the appropriate deadlines at SCSU.

CSU-AAUP Special Election:

With the resignation of Vijay Nair as CSU-AAUP president in May, 2016, Elena Tapia, formerly CSU-AAUP vice president, assumed the role of president. President Tapia appointed Patricia O'Neill from WCSU as acting CSU-AAUP vice president until a special election can be held, as required by the CSU-AAUP Constitution. Therefore, a special election for Vice President will be held this Fall beginning with a request for nominations that should be appearing soon. Any CSU-AAUP member is eligible to run for the vice president position or nominate another member. If you are interested in running, please fill out the nomination form when it is distributed or contact your chapter office.