

AAUP

AUGUST 26, 2011

WELCOME

Welcome to another year, and for some, a new year at UCONN.

The turbulence of the spring and summer months should give way to several years of stability due to overwhelming AAUP membership support of the contract negotiations. While 86% of our membership voted in favor of the concession agreement, the AAUP leadership and fellow colleagues acknowledge the understandable difference of opinion reflected by the vote. It would be a strange place, indeed, if everyone agreed upon anything in particular. Still, there will be details that invariably arise and will have to be worked out. Just as not everyone will agree on such an agreement, it is also impossible to foresee all eventualities.

At last we have a situation with a plan for budgeting the commitments made in the latest agreement. A separate, audited fund for post-retirement health care benefits will be able to refund contributions to people who leave before reaching the level of vesting. This newly established fund neither impacts the State Pension Funds ability to pay the benefits of those who retire in the state system nor does it put pressure on the state to diminish its level of contribution to the Alternate Retirement System (as was proposed at one point).

It is worse than irksome to not have a merit plan that recognizes effort and results in a timely way. The AAUP will be working on a plan with the university to incorporate individual records of accomplishments that would have been in place this year and next for the third, fourth, and fifth years of the agreement.

We will have a review completed by the end of the calendar year to move many end date and “in residence” positions into a contract article providing more job security.

Welcome also to President Susan Herbst to a full academic year at UCONN. President Herbst has already made, directly or indirectly, several notable changes in management at the Health Center, Athletics, and the Information Technology office.

What this may portend for Academic Affairs has yet to be seen, but many are watching for developments as President Herbst has made no secret of wanting to support academic efforts as the main mission of the University of Connecticut.

HEALTH FAIRS SCHEDULED

The AAUP website (www.uconnaaup.org) has a list of scheduled health fairs at which all employees will be able to enroll in the Health Enhancement Program, if they so choose, by speaking with representatives of the Comptroller's Office who will be in attendance. It will be an excellent opportunity to learn particulars about the health care program. The AAUP will have a Q&A series based on membership questions.

AAUP ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR

UConn-AAUP has hired Peter Nguyen as the chapter's Director. He is designated to replace the current Executive Director, Ed Marth, who will retire December 31, 2011. Peter is currently employed by the California Federation of Teachers and works as negotiator and grievance person for K-12, community colleges, and adjunct faculty locals in the Los Angeles area. Mr. Nguyen is a graduate of California schools including University of California-Davis and UCLA law school.

Peter is looking forward to meeting the faculty and other members of the chapter, and will be introduced as widely as possible after his start date of September 1st.

The search for a new Director was truly national in scope with candidates both local and as far as California. Members of the Search Committee and members of the Executive Committee who had the opportunity to meet Peter were uniformly supportive of the decision to offer him the job.

The members of the Search Committee were Norma Bouchard (Chair), Richard Rockwell, Lisa Sanchez, Thomas Bontly, Leslie Gemme, and Tom Peters (ex officio).

RETIREMENT PARTY

A retirement party will be held in October for UConn-AAUP Executive Director Ed Marth. If you are interested in attending, please contact the AAUP office at 860-487-0450 or BarbaraK@uconnaaup.org before September 9th.