

# AAUP

MAY 6, 2010

## EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE FIZZLES

Just as the last AAUP newsletter was being printed there were reports of a proposal by Governor Rell to have another retirement incentive, but this year's version would have had a three year credit for age, as opposed to service. This would enable someone fully vested at age fifty-two to become age fifty-five on paper and retire.

The State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) was convened to meet with representatives of the governor to review the proposal on April 28.

In response to questions from the SEBAC spokesperson Attorney Dan Livingston, the governor's representative Saranne Murray, Esq., replied that the state had not; a) completed an analysis of the impact of the incentive in agencies or services provided, or b) completed a cost analysis of the proposal on the pension fund. The pension fund is already one of the worst funded pension plans in the country due to deferral of payments and poor earnings assumptions.

Successive governors have chosen to run the state out of the pension fund rather than opting for adequate taxation. Although Connecticut is not alone in this form of tax avoidance, other states are now turning to proposals to cut benefits of retired employees to pay for the promised benefits.

Attorney Livingston noted that the end date of the 2009 legislative session was known for some time, yet the governor waited until a week beforehand to raise the early retirement issue. He also noted that the SEBAC agreement signed by Governor Rowland and approved by the legislature provides that the governor can propose a retirement incentive in a timely manner, and SEBAC would be obliged to negotiate. Should there be a dispute, the final determination would be made by an arbitrator.

With that, the governor's representative commented "that seems to be a no", and left the meeting.

The latest news is that it appears unlikely that an early retirement incentive will be offered.

## CONNECTICUT STATE REVENUE INCREASING

The budget and finance offices of the state are reporting an uptick in the state's revenue picture, but this increase will not offset the dire predictions of the 2011 budget shortfall and especially for the 2012 budget. U.S. Senator Tom Harkin has proposed a special appropriation to assist states in education funding for fiscal year 2012, but it is far from becoming law.

## MESSAGE FROM THE AAUP POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)

*Professor Ronald Schurin, Chair*

The UConn AAUP PAC (Political Action Committee) will soon begin the process of identifying candidates for Connecticut statewide and legislative races who merit the PAC's endorsement. AAUP-PAC decisions have traditionally been based on candidates' commitment to the University of Connecticut and understanding of—and support for—the needs of our members in the collective bargaining process. The PAC expects to use these criteria again this year.

The PAC will be sending out questionnaires to candidates over the next few months. We hope to make the questionnaires short, to the point, and neither overly general nor overly specific. Once questionnaires are returned, the PAC will set up interviews with candidates, generally focusing our limited time on those in competitive districts.

The PAC would like to be sure that no important issues are left out of either the questionnaires or the interviews. We also want to be sure that we are reflecting the major concerns of UConn AAUP members.

If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the PAC's attention for us to include in what we communicate to the candidates, please leave a message for the PAC Chair, Ron Schurin (Political Science-Storrs) at the AAUP office (860) 487-0450 or e-mail [DebraR@uconnaaup.org](mailto:DebraR@uconnaaup.org). Please try to do so by the end of May.

Also—we continue to look for people who might be interested in serving on the PAC in future years. If you think you might want to be involved in this important process, please let the AAUP office know by contacting Ed Marth at [EdMarth@uconnaaup.org](mailto:EdMarth@uconnaaup.org) or Debra Reynolds at [DebraR@uconnaaup.org](mailto:DebraR@uconnaaup.org), and they will pass your name on to the chapter president.

We have worked hard over the years to have the AAUP-PAC's endorsement be a sign of support from an organization committed to quality public higher education, and we try to make this process one of the ways in which we let candidates know about our needs and goals. We welcome the active support of all interested members.

### AAUP PAC MEMBERS:

Ron Schurin, Chair; Rajeev Bansal, Treasurer; Dennis McGavran, Carl Salsedo, C. Robert Venator; and Charles Yarish.