May 20th Rally for a Moral Budget

A State Employee Rally is being held on May 20th, 4:00 pm at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) 300 Capitol Ave to call upon Governor Lamont & CT Legislators to pass a budget that works for the many, not just the few.

Please join other coalition partners in demanding a moral budget that ensures good jobs and fair wages, protects vital public services, fully funds public schools, protects and expands quality, affordable health insurance, and expands clean energy and protects the environment.

Busses are being ordered to take union members from the UConn campus to the LOB.

BRING A COLLEAGUE AND JOIN YOUR COALITION PARTNERS IN MAKING A STAND FOR A MORAL BUDGET.

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From the Chapter President - Tom Bontly
With another academic year in the books, it’s a good time for me to thank UConn-AAUP’s nearly 1700 loyal members for continuing to support the organization’s work.

In the past year, our chapter has been busier than ever. Our staff represented more than 100 faculty members in disciplinary or grievance proceedings to ensure that their rights are protected, and we provided dozens more with informal advice and mediation. Our negotiators worked with the Provost's office to improve promotion, tenure, and reappointment procedures, and with the OVPR to improve the travel award system. We advocated for pay equity for women and underrepresented minorities, and for better working conditions and job security for adjunct faculty. We lobbied in Hartford for state support of higher education, testified on numerous bills before legislative committees, and worked with our elected representatives to solve the University’s fringe rate problem. And on and on.

Looking ahead to next year, the first thing on our agenda is to lay the groundwork for the lengthy process of negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement. Our current contract expires June 30, 2021; to have a successor in place, it must first be negotiated with the administration, then approved by our members, by the Board of Trustees, and finally by the General Assembly – all of which takes time.

The first step in the bargaining process is for our Contract Committee to evaluate our goals for a new contract and draft proposals to bring to the table. Right now, we are looking for volunteers to work over the summer and/or into the fall semester. If you have been wanting to make a difference but haven’t been sure how to help, now is your chance. Don’t be shy!

Collective bargaining is the most effective tool we have with which to advance UConn-AAUP’s traditional values: academic freedom, shared governance, due process, economic security, and excellence in research, scholarship, teaching, and service. But collective bargaining isn’t a freebie; it requires members like you and me to support our organization with our dues, our energy, and our time.

So, I thank you once again for your continued support of AAUP. And I hope you will join me in reaching out to new colleagues as they arrive on campus, to show them what we can do together and encourage them to become members as well.

Best wishes for a restful and productive summer.

*UConn-AAUP Committee W (Women)*

On May 1, 2019, Committee W held a workshop on gender pay equity with guest presenters Jill Zwagerman and Tom Newkirk from the Iowa-based Civil Rights law firm of Newkirk Zwagerman. The purpose of the workshop was to inform and educate campus communities, key groups, and allies to recognize the full extent of the pay equity crisis and the pervasive, systemic nature of gender bias, and to find ways to solve it going forward.
The workshop drew many interested faculty, filling a student union room, while many watched via Facebook Live.

Keep your eyes open for other workshops hosted by Committee W scheduled for the Fall semester.

Faculty Traveling Funding

After travel funding ran out unusually early this year, your UConn-AAUP chapter worked with the OVPR to devise a system to distribute these funds more fairly. Beginning with the 2019-20 academic year, funds in the AAUP/OVPR Faculty Travel program will be split evenly between Fall (7/1-12/31) and Spring (1/1-6/30). Applications for Fall travel awards will open June 1; applications for Spring travel awards will open November 1.

While the new system will ensure that some travel funding is still available for later in the academic year, unfortunately it does nothing to increase the total amount available for faculty travel. That shortfall will have to be addressed in contract negotiations next year.

Welcome President Katsouleas

On April 22, representatives from UConn-AAUP had a cordial meeting with UConn's president-designate, Tom Katsouleas. There was forthright discussion of challenges and opportunities, highlighting the many opportunities for the administration and UConn-AAUP to work together to support our faculty and advance the university’s mission. We look forward to building a strong working relationship with the new president and glad to have him on board.

We also thank President Susan Herbst for her leadership and commend her for the progress the university has made these past eight years.

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