

Main Identity

From: "Mass. Society of Professors" <msp@external.umass.edu>
To: "All Unit Email List" <allunit@external.umass.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2007 10:36 AM
Subject: [Allunit] PHENOM and Bargaining Update

Dear MSP Member,

Over the past 12 years it has been hard to imagine heading to the State House for anything other than to head off a crisis, or to get long-delayed contracts funded. But we are in a new era where we truly can imagine a substantial new investment in our university -- provided we are willing to show up and make it clear to the legislature that there is a constituency that will insist on it. So:

We need you on the bus to Boston this Wednesday, April 25 (leaving from Haigis Mall at 7:45 a.m.). Email massphenom@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

If none of us shows up, why should they believe it matters to the people of Massachusetts? The Board of Trustees has made it clear they too believe this is a new era and have called on everyone to attend our **PHENOMenal day for Higher Education April 25**. Please make arrangements so you can be there.

I also have a brief bargaining update. First, the very good news: the Family Issues Committee has completed an agreement with the administration that contains some notable gains: the first-ever child care subsidy for new faculty (\$150,000 over three years); an automatic delay in the tenure clock for parental leave; the right to request leave without pay for family care reasons (such as elder care); and an ongoing MSP-Administration committee to develop further improvements to family and work-life policies. The Committee [Eve Weinbaum, Nerissa Balce, Joyce Berkman, John Brigham, Paula Chakravarty, Miliann Kang, Laura Lovett, Jen Lundquist, Katie McDermott, KerryAnn O'Meara, Becky Ready and Dean Robinson] deserves everyone's thanks for their year-long work to get these policies in place.

And now the more disturbing part of the report. The Governor's Office of Administration and Finance has still not offered economic parameters to us, so we cannot move forward in bargaining salary increases or professional development funds. We are getting impatient, as time is running out for us to achieve what you asked us to achieve: a good contract, completed by June 30. We have begun contacting the Governor's staff directly and will ramp up the pressure on Governor Patrick if we don't have movement in the coming weeks. Furthermore, our local administration continues to balk at accepting our proposals -- on contract faculty, anomalies, sabbatical policy, and phased retirement -- that help promote the university's research mission and address inequities. These proposals have the added virtue of being inexpensive and, in some cases, saving the university money.

I want you to plan to be at the **special Faculty Senate meeting on Thursday, May 3 (1:30 pm, Thompson 102)**, when Board of Trustees Chair Steve Tocco addresses the faculty. He needs to hear your displeasure at the pace of negotiations and the unwillingness of the Provost and Chancellor to move on our key proposals that will benefit the university.

Max Page
MSP President