

## Main Identity

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**From:** "Mass. Society of Professors" <mSP@external.umass.edu>  
**To:** "All Unit Email List" <allunit@external.umass.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2007 11:23 AM  
**Subject:** [Allunit] MSP Bargaining Update

Dear MSP Members:

This past Friday, we received our first concrete financial offer from Roy Milbury, the negotiator in the UMass President's Office. These are the key components:

First, and perhaps most significantly, the Secretary of Administration and Finance is insisting on one-year contracts for all state unions. The Secretary has said that because of a structural budget deficit and lack of movement on some of his revenue-enhancing policies -- such as closing corporate tax loopholes and, potentially, casino gambling -- the Patrick Administration cannot make long-term commitments, and especially not good, long-term commitments. They hope that those revenue streams and economic development over the coming year will allow them to have a better prediction of the state's finances.

Second, for that one year we are being offered a 3.5% raise. Three percent matches the "pattern" offered to other state unions; 0.5% is the amount they offered us "in lieu of steps." Steps are the yearly increases that many state employees -- including, for example, clerical and blue-collar staff on our campus -- receive, regardless of the state of any given contract. The administration is proposing that 2.5% be given "across the board" for all MSP members in good standing; 1% would be for merit, determined by departments and the Deans, as has been done in the past.

Finally, there is no provision for professional development. As you all well know, we have received no professional development money (typically adding up to around \$1600 per member total over three years) for the past three years, due to a double-cross by the Romney Administration.

Needless to say, your bargaining team was very disappointed with this offer. We consider a three-year contract extremely important for our members, and for the ability of the University to attract and retain new faculty. To be willing to give that up and go with a one-year contract would require that the offer -- on economic and non-economic issues -- be very strong. So far, the offer is not even close.

Let me be clear: we communicated our dissatisfaction with the offer and have made it clear that it must move: the amount that faculty and librarians receive "in lieu of steps" must more accurately reflect the true value of steps and we absolutely must have professional development monies in this contract.

We are hoping to meet with UMass President Jack Wilson in the coming week to accelerate the bargaining process in the hope of achieving one of our key goals: to obtain a good contract completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Max Page  
MSP President