

E-NEWS: URI/PART-TIME FACULTY UNITED!

A MAJOR WIN FOR URI / PTFU

The URI/AAUP Part-Time Faculty United (URI/PTFU) has won an important victory for part-time faculty at the University of Rhode Island.

Following the ratification in December 2010 of the first URI/PTFU Collective Bargaining Agreement between URI/PTFU and the URI/BOG (RI Board of Governors for Higher Education), a significant number of URI part-time faculty were denied, without reason or explanation, course teaching assignments for the coming semester. The affected part-time faculty members immediately filed grievances as provided for under the provisions of the new Grievance Article that was gained in our first CBA.

In clear violation of their time-in-service (seniority) rights under the new Agreement each grievant was denied class assignments even though each had taught a wide range of courses over several continuous semesters/years of teaching at the University of Rhode Island. During the course of the Grievance process (*repeatedly* delayed by the URI Administration) it became clear that the Administration had no justification or defense for the arbitrary actions that had been taken in denying assignments to the indicated part-time faculty. After unnecessarily protracted negotiations the URI Administration finally agreed to the proposed URI/ PTFU monetary award and also granted the PTFU proposed additional time-in-service credit to make up for those courses that should have been assigned originally.

Briefly, the successful outcome of these grievances resulted in each of the PTF being awarded a dollar amount equal to what they would have earned had they taught a class in the original assignment sequence plus an additional amount for interest/redress, and time-in-service credit as well. It is worth mentioning that from the time they filed their original grievances each of the PTF grievants has regularly taught courses every semester in their fields of expertise.

This is an important win for the individuals involved, for the URI PTFU Grievance Committee, for the URI PTFU Executive Committee, and for the Union's legal counsel. This successful outcome is a further major win for the Union in terms of ensuring that the rights and entitlements gained through collective bargaining negotiations for URI's part-time faculty are respected and enforced.

Congratulations to all!

URI/PTFU Executive Committee
YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM!

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