

**ACTIONS TAKEN (& UPCOMING)
IN SUPPORT OF ARBITRATOR'S SALARY AWARD
TO
URI ADJUNCT FACULTY**

TO: URI Adjunct Faculty & Other Interested Individuals

FROM: URI/Part-Time Faculty United Contract Negotiation Committee

We write to inform you of the status of our current contract negotiations. The URI/PTFU negotiation committee remains in negotiations with URI and the RI Council on PostSecondary Education (RI CPE) in our efforts to gain the salary increase awarded to URI PTFU by Arbitrator Hon. Frank J. Williams (Ret.) in his decision dated April 4, 2017. URI not only REFUSES to pay the Arbitrator's Award to the University's adjunct faculty but they also REFUSE to pay anything even close to what the Arbitrator awarded --and, obviously, what the adjunct faculty at URI are entitled to receive.

After participating in Interest Arbitration (lasting almost one year) and writing a court brief in support of their argument against a substantial salary correction increase URI LOST on this wage issue. URI's response to that loss is: 1) REFUSE TO PAY WHAT THE ARBITRATOR AWARDED, and 2) REFUSE TO PAY ANYTHING THAT IS EVEN CLOSE TO what the Arbitrator has awarded the URI adjunct faculty.

As part of the Interest Arbitration protocols the URI/PTFU Union was also required to submit a court brief to the Arbitrator. The Arbitrator concluded that the UNION, based upon the hearings, documents presented throughout the Arbitration process, as well as the Union's court brief, had made its case and WON on its proposed salary correction increase for the University's adjunct part-time faculty.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND'S STRONGLY NEGATIVE TREATMENT OF URI'S ADJUNCT FACULTY-- PARTICULARLY ITS REPEATED DENIAL OF THE VALUE OF URI ADJUNCT FACULTY TO URI'S UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AS WELL AS THE UNIVERSITY'S ABILITY TO OFFER ITS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS. (FYI: 29% of URI'S undergraduate program of study is offered by the University's adjunct faculty; 48% of URI's students are from out-of-state.)

We aim to present our case at numerous and various forums as long as it takes to achieve what the Arbitrator, after careful examination and analysis, concluded is a minimum salary URI's adjunct faculty deserve to earn.

Presented below is a summary list of actions taken and those to follow along with on-going activities.

Our most recent action took place on July 26, 2017 at a meeting of the RI CPE at URI Graduate School, Narragansett Bay Campus, 5:30pm. (URI PTF and others spoke in support of the Arbitrator's Monetary Award)

Previous actions included:

ACTIONS TAKEN (Summary)

- **April 26, 2017** RI Council on PostSecondary Education (RI CPE), Meeting at 5:30 at RIC. (URI PTF and others spoke in support of Arbitrator's Monetary Award)
- **May 21, 2017** Undergraduate Commencement (Edwards Auditorium & Upper College Rd) (Informational Picket)
- **June 10, 2017** An Evening of Grapes & Grain, Eighth Annual Event, President's House Lawn, 5 -7 pm (Informational Picket)
- **June 21, 2017** RI CPE meeting, Westerly Education Center, Westerly., 5:30pm. URI PTF and others spoke in support of Arbitrator's Monetary Award)
- **July 20, 2017** Office of Commissioner of Higher Education, Jefferson Blvd, Warwick, 3:00 - 5:00pm (Informational Picket)
- **July 26, 2017** RI CPE meeting at 5:30pm, Graduate School of Oceanography, Narragansett Bay Campus (URI PTF and others spoke in support of Arbitrator's Monetary Award)

- **EMAILS** to bargaining unit members providing general information on the situation and updated knowledge regarding the current status of contract negotiations.
- **ARTICLES & LETTERS** Many articles and letters have appeared in *Providence Business News, The Narragansett Times, The Westerly Sun, GoLocal News, Providence Journal* and also cited several times over the past year in the national on-line newsletter *COCAL* (Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor).

UPCOMING ACTIONS

We are planning several Informational Pickets (details to follow) the week before classes start as well as during the 1st & 2nd weeks after classes begin. We will have signs and handouts available for distribution. Information will also be forthcoming concerning dates/time/locations of upcoming RI CPE meetings.

In the meantime, please continue to do the following:

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

- Call or email letters to President David Dooley; Chair, RI Board of Education, Barbara S. Cottam; Commissioner Brenda Dann-Messier; and Governor Gina Raimondo and urge each of them individually to take action to implement the Arbitrator's Salary Award. In the Arbitrator's words: "The award is a "Fair and equitable award that is in the interest of both parties." (Arbitrator Hon. Frank J. Williams (Ret'd)

--President David Dooley

Tel: (401) 874-2444 Email: davedooley@uri.edu

--Chair, Barbara S. Cottam, RI Board of Education

Tel: (401) 736-1100 Email: cottam@riopc.edu

--Commissioner Brenda Dann-Messier

Tel: (401) 736-1100 Email: brenda.dann-messier@riopc.edu

--Governor Gina Raimondo

Tel: (401) 222-2080 Email: brad.inman@governor.ri.gov

- Call or email members of the General Assembly (see full list provided earlier to all bargaining unit members).

TAKE ACTION NOW

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NECESSARY

**PREPARED BY:
URI/AAUP/PART-TIME FACULTY UNITED
NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE
DATE: AUGUST 2017**