

UCHC-AAUP NEWS

Chapter Newsletter

Volume I, No. 2

Fall 2014

Current Negotiations

Over the last few months, we have been in discussions with the administration concerning the possibility of offering multi-year appointments, and reforming some parts of the re-appointment process. In our previous meetings, you identified this as an important topic in need of attention. Progress across the table has been slow. However, we are hopeful that there we can find common ground. If no agreement results, we are optimistic that this and other matters of concern can be revisited when the whole contract comes up for negotiation in late 2015 to 2016.

Did you know?

Did you know that you can donate unused vacation time to your 403(b) or 457 plan? Vacation time is usually paid out upon separation from service. Taxes on this amount can be substantial. For this reason, many employees find it beneficial to defer some or all of their vacation/sick time into the 457 or 403(b) plans. By doing this, you can reduce taxes on the final payout and accumulate additional retirement savings. For more information see <http://uchc-aaup.org/deferral-vacation-sick-leave-payouts-2/>



UCHC-AAUP HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The UCHC-AAUP is delighted to announce the hiring of Diomedes Tsitouras (“Dio”) as its second Executive Director.

Dio comes to us after working at a variety of unions including, the National Treasury Employees Union and the New York State Nurses Association.

With degrees in both law and labor relations, he is familiar with all aspects of collective bargaining and work place representation. In addition, he has a strong-familiarity with health care law and policy.

As the son of health care professionals whom have served careers in teaching hospitals, Dio is eager to bring his passion and expertise to us.

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Website:

<http://uchc-aaup.org/>

HEP at UCONN Health

UConn Health can schedule HEP appointments for you and your dependents. Appointments are available in Farmington and Storrs Center. Here are the numbers to call:

All medical/preventive appointments:
1-844-577-7055

Calls are answered Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please feel free to leave a message after hours. This applies to appointments including primary care, cholesterol screening, vision screening (ophthalmology), mammography, women's health, colon cancer screening, colonoscopy and more.

Dental appointments in Storrs Center:
1-860-487-9330

This applies to the necessary dental cleanings.

To make sure you are scheduling all required appointments for your age group, please log onto the HEP portal at www.cthep.com. If you prefer to access this information by phone, you can contact Care Management Solutions toll free at [\(877\) 687-1448](tel:8776871448). HEP representatives will be available Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Congressmen Push for NIH funding!

Two House Democrats, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Rep. Bill Higgins (D-NY) co-sponsored legislation that would increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Accelerating Biomedical Research Act (H.R 5580) would create a new budget cap adjustment. If the bill were enacted, appropriations for the NIH could be increased by 10 percent in the first two years and by 5 percent in subsequent years. See the uchc-aaup.org website for details on how you can write a letter to your Congressman in support of this legislation.

News from AAUP National

The AAUP wrote to University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign chancellor Phyllis Wise to express deep concern about actions taken against professor Steven Salaita. "Aborting an appointment in this manner without having demonstrated cause has consistently been seen by the AAUP as tantamount to summary dismissal, an action categorically inimical to academic freedom and due process and one aggravated in his case by the apparent failure to provide him with any written or even oral explanation," the letter says, adding that Salaita should receive full pay until the university's Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, which has initiated an examination of the case, has concluded its proceedings. A copy of the full-letter is available at:

<http://www.aaup.org/news/aaup-takes-uiuc-task-apparent-summary-dismissal>

LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

The Direct Loan Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program was established with the passage of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007.

The Program allows eligible borrowers to cancel the remaining balance of their Direct Loans after they have served full time at a public service organization for 10 years, while making 120 qualifying loan payments.

The UCHC is a qualified public service organization. You may qualify for his loan forgiveness program. Follow the link below or call the UCHC-AAUP office for more information.

http://www.myfedloan.org/forms/pdf/discharge/pslf_instructions_ECF.pdf

Parking Taskforce

We would like to update you on our efforts to advocate on your behalf concerning the ill-conceived parking scheme. From the very beginning, we warned the administration about the plan's numerous difficulties. Despite this, it went forward anyway. Since then, we have been voicing your concerns with the aim of ameliorating its worst aspects. We were an early champion of the band-aid approach of soliciting volunteers for Garage 1 and ensuring that the students who arrived in late August did not exacerbate the problem.

We are also pleased that the administration recently adopted our idea of creating a Traveler permit for those of you that frequently leave and return to campus in a single day, as well as those whom have emergency clinical responsibilities. Such a permit will allow access to a special parking area.

While these measures are piece-meal, we eagerly push for a long-term solution. The outline of this may not be apparent until after the new out-patient building opens in January. The administration predicts a couple of hundred employees will move to Garage 1 at that time. Until then, we will stay engaged.

Recently, the administration has convened a parking taskforce, which has representation from the UCHC unions. We look forward to meeting frequently and finding better solutions.

WILL YOU RECRUIT A MEMBER?

Almost 75% of the UCHC-AAUP faculty are union members. Membership in the UCHC-AAUP allows you to have a say in decisions that are made. These include voting on your collective bargaining agreement, electing chapter and national AAUP officers, and serving on local and national AAUP committees. Since Connecticut is a “union shop” bargaining unit members are assessed an “agency fee” (non-members) or “union dues” (members), which is automatically deducted from pay. Since these amounts are the same, it makes sense for faculty members to join the chapter so that their voice is heard in union decision-making.

Larger membership also sends a stronger message that the faculty are united and stand behind the union as it pushes for better pay, benefits, and conditions. A strong and active voice is also necessary to maintain the dignity of the academic, research, and clinical missions, and to ensure that none are diminished.

Further you will be joining your other UCHC-AAUP colleagues and faculty across the country who are fighting cutbacks in state funding of higher education and teaching hospitals; against corporate and legislative attempts to control faculty research and teaching; and against threats to academic freedom and shared governance.

In order to join UCHC-AAUP, a faculty member must **sign a membership form**, which may be found on the website (uchc-aaup.org). If a faculty member is unsure if he/she is a member, please call Susan in the UCHC-AAUP office.

AAUP STAFF

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2014-2015 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Officers

President – *David Gregorio*, Community Medicine
and Healthcare

Vice President – *Kevin Claffey*, Cell Biology

Secretary/Treasurer – *Ann Cowan*, CCAM

Members

John Carson, Medical/Basic, CCAM

Carolyn Drazinic, At-large, Psychiatry

Kourosh Parham, Medical/Clinical, ENT

Doug Oliver, At-large, Neuroscience

Aditya Tadinada, Dental, Oral Health and
Diagnostic Services

Jon Goldberg, Dental, Reconstructive Sciences

Les Bernstein, Medical/Basic, Neuroscience

Rebecca Andrews, Medical/Clinical, Medicine