



Union News

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The Year Ahead: *Politics & Contract Negotiations*

It's becoming increasingly clear that the next governor of Connecticut will have a direct and lasting impact on state employees and state service. In fact, the Connecticut State University System as we know it may be radically altered (see articles in "News From Across the State" below). Regardless of who is elected governor, it is clear that we should anticipate serious discussion by the General Assembly about altering state employee pension and healthcare benefits, as well as a close look at the CSU System. Over the summer, CSU was the subject of much negative press, including making national headlines in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Inside Higher Education*, when the Board of Trustees approved up to 10 percent increases in salary for the Chancellor, University Presidents and other top managers. Unfortunately, at a time when politicians are looking for budget cuts this put a much larger target on the CSU System. **Another critical factor is that approximately one year from now, CSU-AAUP will be entering into contract negotiations with the BOT for a successor agreement at which time the university budget could have a direct and lasting negative impact for all members.**

It is crucial that we counter these negative stories about state employees and the CSU system with positive messages. CSU serves a critical role in the state and faculty are at the center of the university and know our student and alumni stories better than anyone else. Here are five easy ways to have a big influence with little effort:

1. Know what's being said about state employees and about the CSU System. Follow CSU-AAUP on Facebook or Twitter (click on links at top) and read the articles that are posted. Also check out SEBAC's

website, www.inthistogetherct.org, for news that affects all state employees.

2. Don't keep your opinions to yourself. Submit comments to news articles online, write letters to the editor, or email the reporter with follow up story ideas. Share your comments with friends, colleagues, and family.
3. Be "friend" your state representatives or senator ([who are my legislators?](#)) on Facebook and re-post positive stories about CSU so legislators see them.
4. Encourage your students to get involved and follow ideas 1-3 above. If CSU's budget is cut, there could be layoffs and/or an increase in tuition, both of which will impact students.
5. Build relationships with opinion leaders. Invite a legislator or higher education reporter to be a guest speaker in your class. Offer to lend them your academic expertise.

National AAUP: Dual Career Appointment Best Practices

Are you and your partner or spouse searching for academic positions in the same area, or even at the same institution? Would you like to know what kinds of dual-career accommodation programs might be available to assist you, or what procedures an institution should follow to best accommodate your partner? If so, the AAUP's newly released "[Recommendations on Partner Accommodation and Dual Career Appointments](#)" is a must read.

The new recommendations were formulated by the AAUP's Committee on Women in the Academic Profession in view of the increasing likelihood that faculty, especially women faculty, will have domestic partners or spouses who are also academics. The recommendations provide critical guidance on developing sound, equitable policies. In addition, they provide a comprehensive review of the types of partner accommodation programs already available to dual-career academic couples at many colleges and universities.

News From Around the State

The news media needs to hear different perspectives. Don't keep your opinions to yourself!

[Governor Rell Proposes Bold, Innovative Steps to Reduce Unfunded Pension, Health Care Liabilities & SEBAC's Response](#)

[No matter who is elected, the next governor will likely seek givebacks from state employees](#)

[Administrative costs choking universities](#)

[Prosperity through Infrastructure and Education Spending](#)

[Gov candidates target state university officials' salaries](#)

[State workers need a little taste of reality](#)

Have a question? Get the answer!

Call (860) 832-3790 or email us at AaupDistList@ccsu.edu

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