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# ***Union News***

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## **Vote!**

**CSU-AAUP encourages our members to vote on Tuesday, November 6.** Over the summer, the CSU-AAUP Political Committee mailed questionnaires to all candidates for the Connecticut General Assembly. The responses helped guide the Committee's endorsements.

Please visit our website [here](#) to learn which candidates the CSU-AAUP Political Committee has endorsed and view the candidates' responses to our questionnaire.

According to a press release from the ConnSCU office, the Board of Regents met on October 25 and approved the contract of Interim President Dr. Philip Austin. His salary will be \$340,000 a year, the same as Dr. Kennedy. However, the contract does not include the additional benefits that Kennedy received, which amounted to an additional \$100,000 or more. Dr. Austin's contract can be viewed [here](#).

At the same meeting, the Board of Regents voted to reinstate the \$48,000 stipends for Drs. Levinson and Nunez for serving as Vice Presidents for ConnSCU. Dr. Levinson, who also serves as President at Norwalk Community College, has been performing the dual role since January 2012. Dr. Nunez, who also serves as President at Eastern Connecticut State University has been serving in both roles since April.

State law requires the Board of Regents to have a Vice President for the Community Colleges and a Vice President for the Connecticut State Universities. The administration has argued that by allowing Levinson and Nunez to take on additional responsibilities of a Vice President for \$48,000 is a more cost effective way to satisfy state law.

In approving the \$48,000 stipends, the Chair of the BOR Special Committee on Administration, Naomi Cohen, noted that the "the increases in pay for Levinson and Nunez has been brought to the board earlier, discussed and approved in the appropriate manner" (*Hartford Courant*, 10/25/12).

For more information, read the *Hartford Courant* or *Connecticut Mirror*.

**BOR Approves  
Austin's Contract;  
Reinstates  
Stipends for Nunez  
and Levinson**

## CSU-AAUP Research Grants

The proposal guidelines for the CSU-AAUP Research Grants competition can be found [here](#). Applicants must be tenure-track, full-time members of the faculty and must remain on the faculty of the university originating the proposal for the duration of the grant-supported activity, including the project reporting phase.

**Proposals are due on Friday, February 1, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.** Please see the [guidelines](#) for additional information.

## Optional Benefits for State Employees

The State of Connecticut offers its employees many optional benefits. The open enrollment period for the MedFlex and DCAP programs are the month of November. Additional benefits can be viewed [here](#).

### MedFlex

The Medical Flexible Spending Account Program (MedFlex) provides a tax-free way to pay for out-of-pocket medical care expenses that are not covered by your State health and dental plans. MedFlex allows you to contribute from \$520 to \$2,500 per plan year on a pre-tax basis to be used for eligible medical expenses. **The open enrollment period for MedFlex in 2013 is November 1 through November 30, 2012.** New and continuing MedFlex participants must complete a new election form for the 2013 Plan Year. More information and enrollment forms can be found [here](#).

### Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP)

DCAP provides a tax-free way for you to pay for dependent care expenses, allowing you to save money on the cost of these services. DCAP allows you to contribute up to \$5,000 per plan year on a pre-tax basis to be used for eligible dependent care expenses. **The open enrollment period for the 2013 DCAP Plan Year is November 1 through November 30, 2012.** New and continuing DCAP participants must complete a new election form for the 2013 Plan Year. More information and enrollment forms can be found [here](#).