

THIS WEEK'S POLL: How much do you think the reorganization of higher education will directly affect you?



Union News

Fact: Over 50,000 of the 52,000 state employees enrolled in the Health Enhancement Plan (HEP)

Vol. 2, Issue 12 | September 21, 2011

Prescription Drug Mail Order Information

One of the provisions contained in the SEBAC 2011 Agreement is that the pharmacy mail in program for maintenance medications will be mandatory after the first prescription for a new medication for all active employees beginning on October 1. In other words, if your doctor prescribes a new medication, you can fill it at any pharmacy but refills must be filled through mail order or at a local pharmacy that participates in the maintenance drug network. Mail order is for maintenance medications only. Each pharmacy copayment is one for each ninety day supply. Please see the following links from the Comptroller's Office for more information:

[CVS Caremark Users Guide to Mail Order](#)

[Maintenance Drug Network Pharmacies List](#)

[Maintenance Drug List \(July 2011\)](#)

Update on the Board of Regents

The Higher Education Consolidation Committee, consisting of legislators from the Higher Education and Appropriations Committees, met with Interim Board of Regents (BOR) President, Robert Kennedy, and Vice President Mike Meotti on September 14 to ask questions about the consolidation. As President Kennedy is still very new, Vice President Mike Meotti, who formerly served as Higher Education Commissioner, fielded most of the questions.

Meotti reassured the legislators that over the next few months there will be a consolidation of senior management. He also emphasized that hiring decisions of professors will not change. Budgets will be set by the Board of Regents for each campus but hiring decisions will be made at the campus level. He also reaffirmed that this is NOT an institutional merger like the one that took place between the Community and Technical Colleges.

President Kennedy announced that he will be visiting each campus to talk to faculty, staff, and students, and that these visits will be scheduled very soon. We will notify faculty when these visits are scheduled.

To watch the video of this meeting, please click [here](#). To read an article from the *Connecticut Post* about the meeting, please go [here](#).

CSU-AAUP Statement on Special Appointments

There continues to be a lot of concern regarding the number of special appointments maintained on the four campuses. To bring awareness to this matter, the CSU-AAUP Council approved a statement on special appointments, which concludes by saying, “This current overreliance on special appointments is a short-term solution that is leading to long-term challenges for our students. We urge that special appointments be used only for contractually stipulated reasons. Second, we urge that universities return to the approach to hiring that is best for our students: offering full-time tenure track positions.” Read the full statement [here](#).

Greater Good Campaign

The Seattle Times Co., along with five co-sponsors, recently launched a yearlong public-education campaign to highlight the impact of Washington state's higher-education system on job creation and quality of life.

Called The Greater Good Campaign, it aims to build awareness that the state's higher-education system provides a broader public good by creating jobs and enhancing competitiveness, economic growth and innovation.

Find out more about this campaign [here](#).

CSU-AAUP September 15 Council Meeting

- Several CSU-AAUP members interested in learning the ropes of political advocacy will be encouraged to attend the [Connecticut Lobbying Conference](#) on 10/27 from 8:30-4:30 in Hartford

- Some CSU-AAUP members involved in shared governance will attend the [AAUP Fall Conference and Workshops on Shared Governance](#), 11/11-11/13 in Washington, D.C.

- New and veteran CSU-AAUP Grievance Officers will attend the [Labor Law and Labor Arbitration conference](#) in either New York City (12/ 7) or Boston (10/27)

- The [Higher Education Consolidation Committee meeting](#) on September 14 was discussed (see more info in article above)

- Revisions resulting from the CSU-AAUP/BOT and SEBAC Agreements will be incorporated into the current Collective Bargaining Agreement so that CSU-AAUP can post an updated version of the CBA on its website.

- Last academic year, CSU-AAUP commissioned an analysis of CSU's finances by Rudy Fichtenbaum, a consultant for National AAUP and professor at Wright State University. The financial analysis is based primarily on the audited financial statements of CSUS, looking at trends over a five-year period. Further, the report contains a composite index of financial health based on criteria used by bond rating agencies to measure the financial health of an institution. Read the report [here](#).

- CSU-AAUP Council discussed the distribution of the results of the CSU-AAUP Workload Study. Copies of the complete workload study can be viewed online. The CSU System report can be read [here](#), and individual campus reports can be found [here](#).