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# Union News

Vol. 5, Issue 1 | September 2015

## Welcome To A New Academic Year

Welcome to another edition of Union News, produced by the Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors. CSU-AAUP is your union and we invite you to begin this new academic year with a renewed commitment to become an active member. As the CSU-AAUP Negotiating Team approaches contract negotiations, there is much to be gained through our collective efforts.

While the advantages to AAUP membership are many, including the right to vote in chapter elections, as well as special members-only benefits like discount tickets to theme parks and academic regalia, the most important advantage to active membership is being able to make your voice heard. Whether it's more research time, travel and research support or protecting the tenets of academic freedom, there is strength in numbers and together we will be heard. Your voice does matter and can effect change needed to sustain the finest level of higher education possible. We look forward to seeing you and hearing from you as we embark on a new and active academic year.

## Pay Raises Take Effect

All continuing CSU-AAUP members both full-time and part-time received a pay raise, effective August 21. These raises will be reflected in the September 18, 2015, paycheck. If you have any questions or concerns about your raise, please e-mail or call your university payroll office or the CSU-AAUP office at 860-832-3790.

## Contract Negotiations Update

CSU-AAUP and the Board of Regents will begin negotiations for a new contract on or before October 1. To prepare for negotiations, CSU-AAUP distributed a survey in the spring to all members in order to establish priorities for the CSU-AAUP Negotiating Team. The 10-member team, which includes members from the four CSUs, met regularly over the summer to develop proposals based on those priorities. A copy of CSU-AAUP proposals and a copy of proposals we receive from the Board of Regents will be available in each chapter office after they are exchanged. In October, when regular negotiations are underway, look for updates in the form of a separate newsletter called *Table Talk* written by Negotiating Team members and distributed to all CSU-AAUP members. *Table Talk* also will be posted on [the CSU-AAUP website](#) for your reference.

## AAUP 101st Annual Meeting and Conference

In June, CSU-AAUP members and staff attended the AAUP's 101st Annual Meeting and Conference on the State of Higher Education in Washington, D.C. AAUP faculty and staff joined with AAUP members from universities and colleges around our state to lobby Connecticut's delegation on Capitol Hill. Some of the issues raised with the legislators and their staff were: re-authorization of the Higher Education Act; access, affordability and protections for college students; and oversight of for-profit higher education. The National Meeting was filled with lively debate as the AAUP delegates voted to sanction the [University of Southern Maine](#) and the [University of Illinois](#).

## AAUP Summer Institute

A four-day weekend filled with campaign strategizing, student-labor partnerships, institutional financial analysis and even artistic expression attracted 16 CSU-AAUP faculty and staff to the University of Denver to attend AAUP's Summer Institute July 23-26. The intensive workshops and seminars provided hands-on learning and practical advice that chapters could take back to use in their own campaign.

As a testament to the Summer Institute's inspiring messages, CCSU-AAUP has hit the ground running this semester by reaching out to involve new faculty and staffing a table piled with watermelon and fact sheets at a university-sponsored welcome week event. The goal is to build stronger student and faculty relations and to increase student understanding of issues important to CSU-AAUP faculty as we head into contract negotiations.

CSU-AAUP faculty and staff also were involved in leading two Summer Institute workshops. CSU-AAUP Vice President Elena Tapia and CSU-AAUP Communications Associate Elizabeth Newberg presented a workshop with fellow members from the University of Cincinnati on "Creating Positive Public Messages about the Professoriate." Calling on CSU-AAUP experiences with our [CSUConnects blog](#), which promotes the exciting work of CSU-AAUP members to the general public, as well as knowledge of media and public relations, they showed how positive messages can be found and publicized on any budget and at any campus. Participants engaged in a hands-on activity identifying positive news stories on their campuses and crafting their own media release. CSU-AAUP member and past SCSU Council Member Julian Madison also joined fellow AAUP members from the University of Vermont and California State University to deliver a workshop called "Bringing Ethnically Diverse Leadership Into Faculty Organizations: The Role of Social Justice." Faculty shared their successful approaches to bring educators of color and under-represented faculty as active members and leaders in their unions. To see more photos from the Summer Institute, [click here](#).



At left, CSU-AAUP Vice-President Elena Tapia takes a break after a morning session of workshops. Above, CSU-AAUP Council Members listen intently at the Contract Campaigns Workshop led by AAUP's Director of Organizing Jamie Daniel.

Follow CSU-AAUP on [Twitter](#) and like [CSU-AAUP on Facebook](#). Follow our blog [CSUConnects.org](#) to see what we have done to share the great works and amazing stories that our CSU-AAUP faculty do and that the public need to hear.

If you would like your work featured in our blog, please email Elizabeth Newberg at [newberge@ccsu.edu](mailto:newberge@ccsu.edu) to arrange an interview. We want to hear about your work and are excited to share your good news!

Have a question? Get the answer! Call (860) 832-3790 or email us at [newberge@ccsu.edu](mailto:newberge@ccsu.edu)