

NEWS

AAUP is investigating health benefits changes

The AAUP Executive Committee is investigating possible responses to the administration's recently-announced changes to health insurance coverage. These responses could include filing an Unfair Labor Practice charge with the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) or initiating a grievance.

AAUP Contract Compliance Officer Geoff Woolf said, "We are consulting with the Chapter attorney, and we are also seeking additional information from the administration, but it appears that we may be taking action soon."

Geoff said that the administration appears to have committed an Unfair Labor Practice by failing to discuss with the AAUP the changes to the Anthem benefits plan.

"The cost of health benefits is a very important topic whenever we bargain a contract," Geoff said. "The changes that were announced have a financial impact on the members of the faculty bargaining unit, and should have been discussed with union representatives, not just distributed to faculty members as a 'done deal.'

"The AAUP was not given an opportunity to consider these cost changes and to offer possible alternative ways for achieving cost savings," Geoff said.

Filing a grievance would address specific cost increases that affect individual faculty members, Geoff said.

"Some of the announced changes could lead to significant increases in out-of-pocket costs for some faculty members," Geoff said. "When our members voted for this contract, they expected some health insurance coverage and costs would remain in place for three years."

"It might not seem like a problem if the cost of a

procedure that comes up once a year increases by a few dollars—but for some members of the unit, the changes might result in additional costs of hundreds of dollars over the next two years," Geoff continued.

"The AAUP is always willing to work with the administration to keep our health insurance costs under control," Geoff said. "Unfortunately, in this instance, we were not given the opportunity to work together on solving the problem."

A spokesperson for SEIU, the union representing professional, clerical, and technical employees of the College, said they will be filing a grievance on behalf of their bargaining unit members who are adversely affected by the health benefits changes.

Faculty should review summer overload pay

Because of a problem in processing paychecks for the first pay period of Summer Term, a few faculty members received a separate check for overload earned in the first Summer pay period.

The College Finance Office believes the problem has been

resolved. However, any faculty member whose next check (July 24) does not include correct overload compensation should inform Contract Compliance Officer Geoff Woolf.

AAUP Scholarship awarded to Health Information student

The 2009 AAUP Chapter Kenneth V. Stoll Scholarship has been awarded to Mary T. Connolly, a second-year student in the Health Information Management program.

AAUP Scholarship Chair Ron Craig said that Mary has maintained a 4.0 grade point average at Cincinnati State, while also working full time as a professional medical coder.

Mary's husband is a member of the union International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Mary said in her application that the AAUP Scholarship will make it possible for her to complete the HIM degree and gain credentialing as a Registered Health Information Technician.

She plans to earn the bachelor's degree in Health Information Technology Administration offered at the University of Cincinnati. Mary said her goals include eventually returning to Cincinnati State to teach in the HIM program.

The AAUP Scholarship provides \$2,000 to a student who has demonstrated academic excellence while pursuing a degree at Cincinnati State. The funds can be used for tuition, books, or other academic expenses.

The award is named for retired AAUP Chapter member Ken Stoll, in recognition of his many contributions to the College as a student, a faculty member, and an administrator.

Paul Davis elected to National AAUP office

Cincinnati State AAUP President Paul Davis has been elected as an officer of the National AAUP Collective Bargaining Congress (CBC).

Paul's two-year term as a member-at-large on the CBC Executive Committee began at the CBC meeting held in June, in conjunction with the National AAUP Annual Meeting.

Paul is the only member of the CBC Executive Committee

from a community or technical college.

"At a time when community colleges are starting to be recognized nationally for our important role in higher education, I'm pleased to be able to represent two-year college faculty," Paul said.

"I look forward to working with faculty throughout the U.S. on behalf of AAUP's collective bargaining chapters," Paul said.

Contracts distributed

Printed copies of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, 2008-2011, for AAUP Bargaining Unit 1 have been distributed to all members of the bargaining unit, via campus mailboxes.

Any member of the bargaining unit who did not receive a copy of the contract should inform Chapter President Paul Davis.

The contract will remain available on the Chapter website.

**CINCINNATI STATE CHAPTER
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS
3520 CENTRAL PARKWAY
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45223-2690**

CHAPTER WEBSITE: WWW.CINSTATEAAUP.ORG

PRESIDENT

PAUL DAVIS
PHONE: 513.569.1642

VICE PRESIDENT
JOYCE RIMLINGER

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE
GEOFFREY WOOLF

SECRETARY
PEGGY ROLFSEN

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
JANICE LOCKETT

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