

E-News! URI PART-TIME FACULTY UNITED

FEBRUARY 2013

PLEASE NOTE YOUR CALENDAR The PTFU Spring 2013 semester General Membership meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick. The Agenda will be sent out prior to the scheduled meeting. Please make every effort to attend this important semi-annual membership meeting.

WELCOME NEW PART-TIME FACULTY We extend all best wishes to newly appointed (Spring 2013) part-time faculty at URI. The mission of URI Part-Time Faculty United (PTFU) is to promote and preserve the professional integrity and economic well being of all members of the URI part-time faculty group. We will soon contact you personally with detailed information about URI PTFU. In the meantime, our Collective Bargaining Agreement, Constitution and By-Laws, and other PTFU information, including the Application form to become a member of the PTFU AAUP chapter are available on the PTFU website at: www.uri.edu/ptfu/

STATUS OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS Contract negotiations between URI/PTFU and URI/BOG have been at a standstill since our last negotiation session on December 20, 2012. Soon after our last session we were notified by the URI/BOG that effective January 1, 2013 negotiation sessions would not be held until members of the newly created Board of Education have been recommended by the Governor and approved by the RI State Legislature to serve on the new Board. The proposal to merge the two educational boards (K-12 & Board of Governors for Higher Education) into a single Board of Education was approved by the RI State legislature in mid-2012. The law establishing a new board for all education levels was effective on January 1, 2013 by which action simultaneously eliminated the RI Board of Governors for Higher Education.

In January 2013 the PTFU informed the University administration, as well as the new Board of Education negotiation committee, that PTFU is fully prepared to meet with the URI/BOE negotiation committee as soon as possible. As we mentioned in an earlier *E News*, PTFU proposals include: 1) salary increase proportional to the amount paid to full-time faculty members for teaching the same course; 2) additional increase in salary amount paid at PTF salary Level II and PTF salary Level III; 3) benefits package; 4) change in language in Article X (Time in Service/Assignments) specifying specific date(s) by which department chairs must notify PTF in their respective departments of available course assignments for subsequent semesters; and, 5) PTF Faculty Development Fund.

It is expected that members of the new board will be approved by the RI State Legislature by mid-March. The provisions of the current CBA remain in effect until a new contract has been negotiated and approved by the PTFU bargaining unit. We will keep you posted.

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DOOLEY AND PROVOST DE HAYES A report to PTFU bargaining unit members in December highlighted the Executive Committee's meeting with President Dooley and Provost DeHayes. PTFU President Edward Inman III noted that he believes the meeting was a positive experience for everyone. The main purpose of the meeting was to underscore not only the strong presence of part-time faculty at URI but also to emphasize the numerous contributions made by PTF not only in their individual departments but across the University's Colleges as well. A related goal of the meeting was to emphasize to the University Administration, once again, the substantial role of URI's PTF in offering the University's undergraduate curriculum--in brief, reminding URI's administrators that without the services of the University's part-time faculty, URI's curriculum could not be delivered to the University's undergraduate student body. We also reminded President Dooley that his goal of achieving an "inclusive community" at URI will not be achieved if he fails to include URI PTF as an integral part of that "community." As the President himself put it when he announced in August 2012 the hiring of Naomi R. Thompson to the position of associate vice president for Community, Equity and Diversity: "As we've outlined in our Transformational Goals, building a community in which every member is welcome, supported, and valued is essential to our identity and mission." (*Memo to URI Community*, August 8, 2012).

The PTFU CBA stipulates that the President shall meet with the PTFU Executive Committee at least once each semester to discuss matters of mutual interest/concern. We will soon schedule our Spring 2013 semester meeting with the Administration.

SAVE THE DATE

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

2 MAY 2013, 3:30PM

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL (Warwick)

Agenda to Follow