

We want to update you on the status of our raises and retroactive pay. We are all incredibly frustrated that the MSP contract is still stalled because the legislature has not reconvened to approve our raises. Here is what we have done since the legislature adjourned in August:

- MSP members have written at least 200 messages to legislators, impressing upon them the harm that their inaction has caused.
- MSP leaders have reached out for long conversations with our state representatives and senators, including leaders of each house, to express the urgency of funding the contracts.
- MTA has coordinated the statewide effort to pressure the legislature to reconvene – working with other organizations statewide whose priorities were thwarted when the legislature failed to pass the Economic Development bill.
- MSP leaders have had repeated conversations with the Chancellor and Provost to make sure that funding our contracts is at the top of their agenda as they talk with state leaders.
- We are in regular contact with Chris Dunn, Executive Director of Governmental Relations for UMass, and we are sharing information with their office.
- We have worked with our sibling unions, including the Classified Staff Union at UMass Boston, and coordinated our demands to legislators.

The good news is that everyone agrees that as soon as the legislature convenes, we will get our full raises and all of our retroactive pay going back to July 2020. The bad news is that it is taking much too long for the legislature to act, and the delay is harming our members.

Our raises are now included in the supplemental budget that is required to close out the 2022 Fiscal Year that ended on June 30. Under federal law, the Massachusetts legislature is required to pass this close-out budget by November 1st. Because of the upcoming election, legislators are distracted and it's possible they will miss this deadline – but everyone expects the supplemental budget to pass in November. At that point, our raises and retroactive pay will be approved and it will take a couple of weeks for UMass to get the money into our paychecks.

If you are in touch with your state rep or senator, let them know that we need them to pass the supplemental budget (that includes our contract) as soon as possible. You can find your legislator here: <https://malegislature.gov/statehouse/contact> We will keep you informed as soon as we know more about the timing.

This debacle has strengthened our resolve to elect a governor who prioritizes public higher education and workers' rights – and to win better parameters that will provide raises to meet the cost of living in the contract we will negotiate this coming year. In order to do that, **we need to pass the Fair Share Amendment by voting Yes on Question 1!** Sign up here to join the MSP and other UMass union members at a table to educate students and community members during lunchtime in the Campus Center:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Lc960IDAB1h5JjsKuyLiWgFN9AHwybk4-4XQnp0TY/edit?usp=sharing>.

In solidarity,
Eve and Marc