UMass Amherst

MSP MSP <msp@umass.edu>

Fair Wages Now! Informational Picket on Thursday, 10/22 at noon, Cape Cod Lounge

1 message

MSP <msp@umass.edu> Tue, Oct 20, 2026 at 10:51 AM
To: All Unit Email List <allunit@groups.umass.edu>

Stand out with MSP and UMass unions to fight for better pay for public higher ed workers this Thursday, October 22nd! **We'll meet in the Cape Cod Lounge at noon to have pizza and hear from union members about the goals and potential impact of the statewide coalition campaign, Fair Wages Now.**

Take a moment to let us know if you're coming to the rally on Thursday or hopping on the bus to Boston to rally with public workers from across the state on Friday, November 20th. Read on for more campaign details below!

The Fair Wages Now! campaign has been endorsed by unions representing workers on every public higher education campus that has affiliates of the Massachusetts Teachers Association. MTA members working at community colleges, state universities and UMass developed the campaign over the summer in response to studies showing that **public higher education employees in Massachusetts earn up to 30 percent less in comparison to colleagues working in comparable states when adjusted for cost of living**. Lagging wages undermine the quality of Massachusetts's public higher education institutions and have made it difficult for public colleges and universities to fill job vacancies and retain employees. Wide wage gaps also exist among the state's higher education sectors.

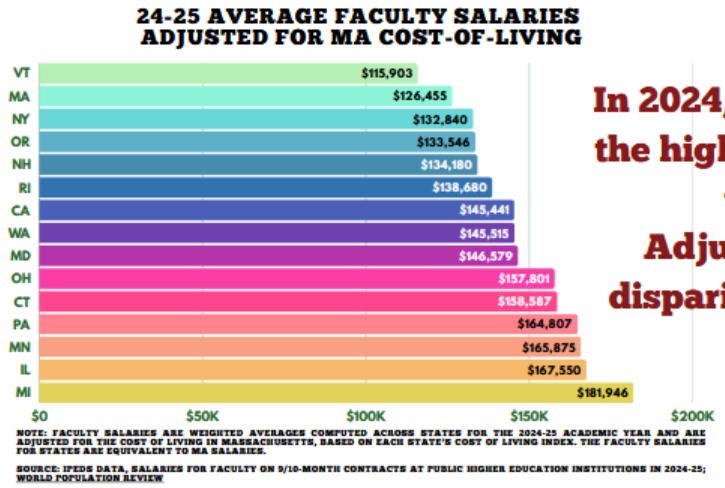
The campaign's goal is for unions to settle contracts with the state that boost wages by 30 percent over the course of three years. The billions of dollars raised by the Fair Share Amendment make it possible to pay public higher education employees the wages they deserve.

"Using Fair Share funds to make public higher education affordable is a right and obvious choice for the Commonwealth, but to maintain the quality of public colleges and universities, we are long overdue for an investment in the people who make public higher education possible," said MTA President Matt Bach. "Members are unified in challenging the tired narrative that Massachusetts cannot afford to pay its workers and will be demanding state budgets that bring wages for public higher ed workers up to where they need to be. Workers deserve fair pay and students deserve staffing and programs that best support their success."

Why Fair Wages Now for UMass Faculty?

UMass is a world-class public research university system, but our salaries don't even lead the nation. In fact, they don't crack the top 10.*

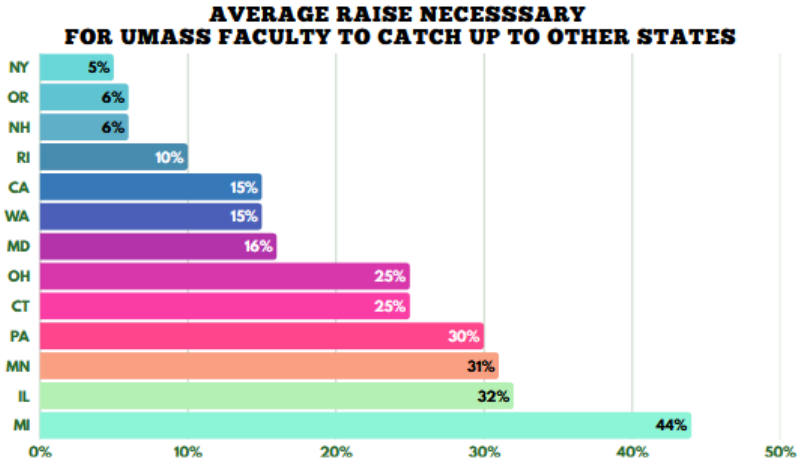
*Source: ASA Research analysis of U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Faculty Salary data, 2022-23 and 2023-24.



In 2024, Massachusetts had the highest cost-of-living in the continental US.* Adjusted for COL, salary disparity is even more dire.

*Source: World Population Review

A 30% average pay increase would still put UMass behind Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Illinois, and Michigan.



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Massachusetts Society of Professors
The union representing faculty & librarians at UMass Amherst.

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