

Dear colleagues,

We'll have some updates from contract negotiations soon, but here are a few time-sensitive action items – please take a minute to read and respond as appropriate.

- 1) On June 1st, you received an email from MTA Election (sent from election@intelliscaninc.net) about the runoff election for the MTA representative on the NEA Board of Directors. Educators for a Democratic Union (EDU) has strongly endorsed **John Bracey** for the position. John is the son of longtime MSP members and UMass faculty members, Ingrid Bracey and John Bracey, and he has a strong record as a smart and progressive educator. **Please find the email and vote online today!** The link and password are in the email from MTA Election.

- 2) IF you were awarded a course release as a workload adjustment because you created a high-quality online course this past year, you should have received an email asking if you would prefer to receive additional compensation instead of the course release. This additional compensation will be paid as a lump sum in a regular paycheck in July or August; it will not affect the standard limits on add comp, and will not affect sabbatical or other credits. It's up to you to decide – but you only have until **June 15** to let the administration know. **Late applications will not be accepted.** Unfortunately, the administration is not willing to extend this same offer to individuals who were awarded either sabbatical credit or credit toward promotion/continuing appointment – only course releases are eligible for this one-time buyout.

- 3) On June 22 at noon, the MSP will join the other UMass unions to host an open meeting about climate justice as a union issue. We will talk about the multi-union coalition that has been working on an agenda around climate justice and green infrastructure, and the proposals that the unions are bringing to the bargaining table – including retrofitting buildings, flexible work arrangements, improving ventilation and healthy buildings, carbon mitigation, green transportation options, and more. Come learn about our proposals and get involved with this exciting initiative! Save the date – registration information is coming soon.

- 4) On June 17 at noon, the MSP is joining with other higher education locals in a forum for legislators, to advocate for spending the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal stimulus funds. Information is below – please register and join us!

PUBLIC HIGHER ED AND ARPA: NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, June 17
12:00-12:55 PM
[Register Here](#)

Dozens of legislators/aides have confirmed attendance!

This 55 minute forum will provide an overview of the challenges facing public higher education, as expressed by staff and faculty on public higher education campuses across Massachusetts. Speakers will highlight ways that the Federal ARPA funds can address the most pressing issues and legislative leaders will have an opportunity to respond to the stories and describe the ways in which we can work to address these needs.

You must register to attend this virtual forum!

<https://www.mobilize.us/massteacher/event/395558/>

MTA's Proposal for State Appropriated Federal Funds: Recovery and Justice After the Pandemic

The American Rescue Plan Act is designed to address challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic and to accelerate our nation's recovery in a way that is equitable, sustainable and just. The Massachusetts Teachers Association is presenting three proposals for the use of some of the \$5.3 billion in discretionary funds available to the Legislature to appropriate.

1. Emergency Financial Aid to Help Students who Face New and Historic Barriers to Success

Expand the MassGrant program to cover the full cost of tuition and fees for lower income students who are attending a public community college or are in their first two years at a state university or UMass.

- Provide additional funding for the SUCCESS program to allow campuses to provide the supports needed to help our students thrive.
- Provide funding for debt relief for graduates of public colleges and universities who want to become educators in our public schools.

2. Education Worker Justice

Pay Equity and Access to Healthcare for Adjunct Faculty

Provide funding to expand adjunct access to health insurance as well as to support pay equity between full-time and adjunct faculty.

Paid Family Medical Leave for Municipal Workers

Establish a reserve, available for several years, to provide the funding needed to cover the employer and employee share of costs of the first year a municipality, district, political subdivision or authority adopts PFML.

3. Safe, Green and Healthy Public School and College Buildings

- Provide funding to the Massachusetts School Building Authority to start addressing the most urgent safety needs while establishing green, healthy and equitable building standards.
- Allocate funding for campus carbon mitigation plans including a variety of strategies as well as initial funding for more ambitious critical projects.