

6/29/2020 [Allunit] Update and info session tomorrow

Dear colleagues:

We expect the chancellor to announce the framework for UMass Amherst's fall "reopening" shortly. In the meantime, we are excited to let you know that MSP and the administration have reached an agreement for a one-year contract extension. We think it is a ground-breaking agreement that recognizes the new forms of pedagogy that faculty and students will be expected to engage in the coming year, and compensates all instructors who put in additional effort. Our agreement includes several tentative agreements that we had concluded before the pandemic began, as well as arrangements that are specific to the coming year.

We will hold a question-and-answer information session for MSP members TOMORROW – Tuesday, June 30, at 2:00 pm. Please RSVP using this link: <https://forms.gle/uBZ9LcZ6pt7CemWm6>. Once you've registered for the meeting, the Zoom link will be emailed to you separately. We plan to hold an online ratification vote this week as well.

Here are some highlights from the one-year agreement:

- Faculty teaching assignments shall be developed at the department/program level and faculty members shall have prior and reasonable consultation regarding their assignment.
- Faculty members who put in the work to create a high-quality fully online course will have three options for workload modification:
 - One year of sabbatical credit (tenured faculty will be expected to take this option)
 - One future course release (timing to be approved by chair/head)
 - One year of credit toward continuous appointment (for NTT faculty)
- Instructional and technological support provided by IDEAS, CTL, IT, librarians
- SRTI will be suspended for the fall; instructors can choose their own methods for soliciting student feedback
- Funds for computer replacement as well as other remote technology needs
- Funds for childcare support and elder care support
- Improved processes for bereavement leave, librarian flex time, research-intensive semesters for pre-tenure faculty, professional improvement leave for extension and clinical faculty, and more...

We still have much to discuss with the administration, including changes to the academic calendar and decisions about who will be on campus in the fall. Now that we have extended the MSP contract, we will turn our attention to health and safety issues, equity issues, and the details of reopening campus, including many questions our members have asked over the past several weeks. We will tell you more at the meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, at 2:00 pm.

On another topic, we wanted to alert you that the UMass President's Office made a major error in payroll processing last week. Almost 1,400 MSP members mistakenly had an additional deduction of MSP dues taken out of Friday's paycheck. We are so sorry for the inconvenience. MSP immediately alerted the payroll office to reverse the deduction, and you should see a refund in your next paycheck.

Finally, we invite you to check out the Building Bridges program, which is a series of exhibits and performances created by workers and immigrant artists here at UMass. The flyer is attached. It begins tomorrow, June 30.

In solidarity,

Eve