

7/22/21 [AllUnit] Raise Update

Dear colleagues,

Since we ratified the new MSP contract back on April 11, we've been waiting for our raises to be implemented. The MSP and MTA have been vigilant and we successfully got the contract approved by the UMass President's Office, the state Office of Administration and Finance, the Governor's Office, and into the legislature. We've been frustrated that the process stalled in the legislature.

Yesterday the Massachusetts Senate passed the economic development bill that includes our raises. The House had already approved it, so the last step is the conference committee, which will approve the final version. There is no question that our raises will be funded and paid in full; the only question is timing. The legislative session ends on July 31st, so we expect the bill with our raises to pass next week. It will take the UMass system some time to process the salary increases, but we hope that our raises will show up in our paychecks before the end of summer. **The legislature's delay will not change the amount of our raises; our retroactive pay will be calculated back to July 2020.** Our contractual raises went into effect in July 2020, July 2021, and July 2022 – we will receive all of those raises and the full retroactive pay we are owed. As soon as we have details about which paycheck will reflect our new salaries and our retroactive pay, we will let you know.

We're already working on the next contract and talking with other state unions to fight for better salary parameters to meet the cost of living. The state budget that passed this week is very good for UMass, bringing in \$91 million above last year's allocation for the system, as well as more funding for public education, thanks to our collective advocacy. We're working on some last-minute policy changes now, including eliminating the 60-day waiting period for GIC health benefits for new employees, and more.

In solidarity,
Eve and Marc