

E-NEWS: URI/AAUP PART-TIME FACULTY UNITED!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

ISSUE #1

WELCOME!!

Welcome to the first issue of *E-NEWS: URI/AAUP PART-TIME FACULTY UNITED!* At this juncture of our work toward unionization we believe there is a need for a newsletter devoted exclusively to the issues and concerns of part-time faculty at the University of Rhode Island. In our effort toward forming a collective bargaining unit for part-time faculty at URI it is essential that we have a means of more directly and effectively communicating with each other about issues of common interest.

Since we first began our effort towards unionization in May 2006, a great deal has been accomplished (see UPDATE article below). Most importantly, approximately 125 part-time faculty members across the University have given their support toward reaching the goal of forming a union by submitting their signed authorization forms. However, as noted in a letter to you dated June 2006, there are a number of URI part-time faculty colleagues who have not yet returned their authorization forms. It should perhaps be mentioned that a signed authorization form does not constitute an instant vote to form a union. Rather, it is the first step in the process of filing a request to the Rhode Island Labor Relations Board (RILRB) to approve and conduct a legal university-wide vote for part-time faculty members at URI. This vote would determine the outcome of whether or not the part-time faculty approve the formation of a collective bargaining unit that would work exclusively for the needs and rights of URI part-time faculty members.

As noted earlier, our collective goal is to guarantee that part-time faculty at URI receive a professional wage, have access to a health care plan, have job security and seniority rights for course assignments, and gain recognition and representation for our valuable contributions. If you have not signed an authorization form it is important to do so now. We need your help in this effort to unionize URI's part-time faculty members. Please join us in this extremely important project--send in your own authorization form if you have not already done so and ask your part-time faculty colleagues to join in support of this effort by signing and submitting an authorization form.



UPDATE

- An e-mail list for all part-timers has been established and is continually updated.
- Several group meetings have been conducted in Kingston, Providence and Warwick to discuss and develop strategies on how to increase part-time faculty participation in our unionization effort.
- Approximately 125 part-time faculty members have already signed and submitted authorization forms.
- "Welcome Information Tables" have been conducted at CCE in an attempt to meet personally with part-time faculty who teach mainly at the Providence campus. Plans are in place to set up "Welcome Information Tables" on the Kingston campus. (Dates and times will be announced shortly.)
- In June a letter was sent (U.S. Mail) to all part-timers. Included with the letter were the following items: 1) a copy of the authorization form, 2) Q & A Sheet, and 3) a list of universities/colleges where approved part-time faculty union contracts are already in place. This mailing, which was sent to you by the following part-time URI faculty members, received a very positive response.

Paul Allen	English/Film	Kingston
Jane Berard	English	Providence
Noel-Anne Brennan	WMS/Anthropology	Providence
Rosendo Brito	English	Providence
Ralph Carlini	Communication Studies	Providence
Jan Doyle	Textiles	Kingston
Adria Evans	BGS/English/WMS	Providence
Diana Fiori	Languages	Kingston
Edward Inman III	Political Science	Providence
Alexia Kosmider	English	Providence
Robert Leuci	English	Kingston
Jody Lisberger	English/WMS	Kingston
Frederick Meli	Anthropology	Providence
Dan Novak	Education	Kingston
Carolina Parra	Languages	Kingston
Deborah Perlman	Biology	Providence
Domingo Perez	Languages	Kingston
Alison Rose	History	Providence
Olga RuizdePanciera	Languages	Providence
Kim Salerno	Art	Kingston
Clare Sartori	Psychology	Kingston
Barbara Silliman	English	Providence

- A Web Site for URI Part-Time Faculty has been established and is regularly updated as needed. The part-time faculty Web Site address is:
www.ele.uri.edu/aaup/parttimers.htm

The Web Site features links to:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Web Site Addresses for Established Part-Time Faculty Unions
- Letter to URI Part-Time Faculty (June 1, 2006)
- Part-Time Declaration Signature Form
- *E-NEWS: URI/AAUP PART-TIME FACULTY UNITED!*

What Is An Authorization Form?

An authorization form is signed by members of an employment group (in this case URI part-time faculty) indicating their support that a request be made to the Rhode Island Labor Relations Board (RILRB) to grant permission to the group to hold an election vote (conducted by the RILRB) to determine whether the group votes in favor of forming a collective bargaining union. In sum, the authorization form makes it possible for part-time faculty at URI to gain permission from the RILRB to conduct a vote with respect to possibly forming a union. That vote usually occurs when more than one-half of the designated group (in this case, approximately one-half of 450) have signed authorization forms that allows the group to move forward with the RILRB to conduct a secret ballot vote to determine whether the part-time faculty at URI desire to establish a collective bargaining union.

Your signature on the authorization form is confidential. Nobody except the URI local faculty officers of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the Rhode Island Labor Relations Board will see the forms.

Please submit your authorization form today! Forms may be downloaded from the part-time faculty website at www.ele.uri.edu/aaup/parttimers.htm or may be obtained from Nancy Murphy, 874-2532; email: namurphy@uri.edu.

Newsletter Committee

**Jane Berard (Providence)
Noel-Anne Brennan (Kingston)
Robert Leuci (Kingston)
Deborah Perlman (Providence)**

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the process of moving forward to unionization for part-time faculty at URI please visit the URI/AAUP Part-Time Faculty WEBSITE at: www.ele.uri.edu/aaup/parttimers.htm or contact:

- **Dorothy F. Donnelly**, Chair, Committee on Protections for URI Part-Time Faculty Tel: 874-4782; email: donnelly@uri.edu
- **Frank R. Annunziato**, Executive Director, URI/AAUP, Tel: 874-2534; email: fraaaup@etal.uri.edu
- **Nancy A. Murphy**, Administrative Associate, URI/AAUP Tel: 874-2532; email: namurphy@uri.edu

Invest in Yourself!!!

Have you signed your authorization form yet? If not, you may download a copy of the form from the URI Part-Time faculty website. Use the link: www.ele.uri.edu/aaup/parttimers.htm and follow the instructions on the form. Forms should be returned ASAP to the address given on the form.

You may also obtain an authorization form from Nancy A. Murphy at 874-2532 or email at: namurphy@uri.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor are invited. Send us your concerns, opinions, and ideas. Letters to the editor should be sent c/o Nancy A. Murphy at namurphy@uri.edu or mailed to AAUP, 302 Roosevelt Hall, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881 or you may fax them to 874-5147.



Who Are We?

As work on this project has progressed, some surprising and some not so surprising discoveries have emerged.

- There are approximately 450 part-time faculty members at URI, teaching an average two (2) courses per semester.
- Multiplied by an average number of 25 students per class, part-timers are teaching more than 1,800 courses and 45,000 students per year.
- We come from all walks of life, all disciplines, and all areas of Southern New England.

- We often work several jobs at once.
- Some of us work full-time in one job and teach on the side, and some of us are retired and have chosen to continue working as teachers.
- Some of us need better pay and benefits, and some of us do not.

One of the things we share is our huge and talented contribution to URI as teachers, scholars, and mentors. URI knows how valuable we are to them; they could not run the University without us. In the opinion of faculty union leaders, the administration and faculty should not be surprised by nor hostile toward our unionizing efforts. They are simply waiting to see when it happens.

