

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

PART-TIME FACULTY — INVEST IN YOURSELF !!

June 1, 2006

Dear Part-Time Colleagues,

We, members of the part-time faculty at URI, need your help.

We are assessing the possibility of forming a union to negotiate for better pay, benefits, job security, and representation for part-time faculty at URI. Over the past five weeks alone, more than 80 part-time faculty members across the University have given their support. There are, however, many part-timers from whom we have not heard responses or who do not know about the ongoing discussions.

We need to hear from you.

As we've been working on this project, we've made some surprising and not so surprising discoveries:

- There are over 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.

We hope the enclosures in this mailing help you learn more about our efforts. The FAQ is to answer your questions about what unionizing entails. The website addresses of some colleges and universities where part-time faculty have already unionized will let you see the details of each successfully negotiated contract.

Before we can form a union, we need to gather approximately 300 signatures in order to get the approval of the RI Labor Relations Board to conduct a secret ballot election for all part-time faculty. In addition, we will need to set up our own organization by drafting and ratifying a constitution and

bylaws. We also need to begin the process of drafting ideas into negotiating proposals. We want to do all these tasks with your help and participation. The enclosed signature form is our first step.

Your signature on the 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. If you would like information on the URI/AAUP, please go to www.ele.uri.edu/aaup.

We hope you will join us in working toward establishing a part-time faculty union by filling out, signing, and returning the enclosed form **by June 30, 2006**. Please use the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope to mail back the form.

Our 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. Even if you prefer not to join us now, we still would like to hear your reasons and concerns.

If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy F. Donnelly, Chair, Committee on Protections for Part-Time Faculty, 401/874-4782, donnelly@uri.edu; or Frank Annunziato, Executive Director URI/AAUP, 401/874-2534, fraaaup@etal.uri.edu; or Jody Lisberger, 401/294-4806, jodylis@cox.net; or Deb Perlman, 401/521-1816, debperlman@cox.net.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,
Your Part-Time Faculty Colleagues:

Paul Allen	English/Film	Kingston
Jane Berard	English	Providence
Noel-Anne Brennan	WMS/Anthropology	Kingston
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