

## **PTLFC-AAUP-AFT Contract Bulletin #3**

### **Negotiations Update and May Day**

May 1<sup>st</sup> is celebrated in many parts of the world as the day when the accomplishments and struggles of working people are recognized. Although "May Day" celebrations are rare in the U.S. at this time, American trade unions actually initiated the first May Day celebrations in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The labor movement in the U.S. has changed significantly over the years. When the Carpenters and other unions organized May Day events, all unionized workers were engaged in blue-collar occupations. Today, an increasing number of professional and white-collar employees are members of unions, including full-time and part-time faculty at Rutgers.

While the issues that we, as Part-time Lecturers (PTLs) at Rutgers, face are very different than 19<sup>th</sup> century carpenters, the struggle to gain recognition for our work, to achieve fairness and job security, and to secure decent compensation has been a constant throughout labor history. Our contract proposals are based on those goals.

Unfortunately, at our negotiations with the University administration's bargaining team on May 1<sup>st</sup>, we made very little progress on those key issues. This was our fourth bargaining session. The RU administration made only minor changes in how they addressed our proposals on professional development, a fair grievance procedure, and compensation for PTLs who have increased class sizes.

At the session, we did reach agreement on one provision that requires the administration to provide some additional information in a PTL's appointment letter.

The next bargaining session will be held Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at which time we expect salary issues to be discussed.

We, your officers, staff, and Bargaining Team, really need you to make it a priority to attend one of the membership meetings:

Each PTL Membership meeting is from 12-2 PM with lunch provided.  
Please RSVP to [deniseb@rutgersaaup.org](mailto:deniseb@rutgersaaup.org)

Camden, Tuesday, May 8, Camden Campus Center, Octagon Dining Room  
Newark, Thursday, May 10, Paul Robeson Campus Center, Room 235  
New Brunswick, Saturday, May 12, Labor Education Center, Room 115