



PART TIME LECTURER FACULTY CHAPTER

RUTGERS COUNCIL OF AAUP-AFT CHAPTERS • JAN-FEB 2006

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SALARY INCREASES TO APPEAR IN FEBRUARY PAYCHECKS

Happy New Year and welcome back from what we hope was an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season and semester break. With the new semester comes another across-the-board salary increase for part-time lecturers - if you are not eligible for a larger PTL service adjustment.

Service adjustments occur at the point of 8, 12, or 20 semesters of teaching with increases of \$35, \$75, or \$100 per credit, respectively. These are all larger than the across-the-board increase of \$30 per credit, so if you're eligible, service adjustment takes priority because they are larger. Anyone who does not receive a service adjustment receives the across-the-board, so every PTL should see some increase in the February paychecks. Across-the-board salary increases for PTLs in PALS are \$.50 an hour.

As always, call the AAUP-AFT office (732-445-2278) if you have any questions or concerns.

PRO-RATA COMPENSATION FOR PART-TIMERS ADVANCES IN THE LEGISLATURE

A-1207, (formerly A3718) the NJ Assembly bill recommending pro-rata compensation for part-time faculty, including part-time lecturers and adjuncts, now has a counterpart in the NJ Senate. The Assembly version, sponsored by Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan (D-18), Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein (D-14) and Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew (D-1) is co-sponsored by Assemblymen Egan, Vas, Barnes and Assemblywoman Weinberg. The Senate version, S-2932, was introduced by Senator Stephen Sweeney (D-3) in the last session and needs to be reintroduced in this session.

In this new legislative session, we will work toward getting both versions voted out of committee and passed by the entire legislature. As hearings are scheduled, we will send email notifications so that those of you willing to testify can make yourselves available. In the meantime, if any of the legislators listed above are your representatives, you might want to thank them and indicate you hope the bills will proceed smoothly through the legislature. There should be no economic concerns since the bills do not call for allocations. Individual institutions would be responsible to comply.

Watch your email for future updates.

INFORMATION ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Fourteen PTLs are receiving grants through the new professional development fund. Letters went out late, according to administrative sources, but next years' awards should not be delayed. Next issue we will highlight some of the awardees.

JOIN THE PTLFC-AAUP-AFT NOW

[Use the application form on the back page.]

REPORT OF THE TASKFORCE ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

When the PTLFC saw that the Taskforce on Undergraduate Education (TUE) did not even mention part-time lecturers in its Report, we generated a Response to the Report which was submitted to the New Brunswick Faculty Council (NBFC) along with the Rutgers AAUP-AFT full-time faculty Response to the TUE Report. As a result, the NBFC included a significant mention of PTLs in their own Response. In this way, we inch toward further visibility and recognition of PTLs' contribution to the educational process at Rutgers.

PTLFC-AAUP-AFT Response to the Taskforce on Undergraduate Education's "Transforming Undergraduate Education"

As educators and members of the Rutgers community, representing nearly 1000 part-time lecturers (PTLs), most of whom teach on the New Brunswick / Piscataway campuses, we support efforts to enhance the delivery of undergraduate education. To the extent that the transformation proposed improves working conditions for faculty and learning conditions for students, we are wholeheartedly behind it. Quality undergraduate education is the foundation of a world class research university, and PTLs at Rutgers are the backbone of the undergraduate educational process.

PTLs teach some 30% of undergraduate courses at the University.

PTLs constitute about 20% of faculty (or teaching personnel.)

PTLs are often the only faculty that students meet.

PTLs teach an enormous amount of basic requirement and core courses.

Despite all this PTLs were not invited, though requests were made, to participate in the Taskforce's deliberations. PTLs were not tapped for input in any systematic way as the Taskforce completed its work. PTLs were not mentioned in the Taskforce's Report.

Any discussion of undergraduate education that ignores PTLs will exacerbate some of the problems that the Taskforce's charge was meant to address. Students will not benefit if reconnecting tenure-track faculty to students really means invisible PTLs continue to shoulder the burden of undergraduate education with no recognition. PTLs must be included in any incentive programs, both monetary and non-monetary, meant to bolster undergraduate teaching. Excluding PTLs, those responsible for so much of undergraduate education, risks further alienating the front lines of the educational delivery system.

With all this in mind, we recommend

- Increased participation of PTLs in matters affecting their professional responsibilities at

Rutgers, specifically the transformation of undergraduate education

- More public acknowledgement of the role played by PTLs in undergraduate education
- A salary structure for PTLs that reflects the significant contribution PTLs make to Rutgers and that provides incentive to enhance performance
- Additional incentives in the form of both financial and recognition awards to support professional activities of PTLs outside the classroom
- Annual contracts for PTLs as a stabilizing force within undergraduate education

We put these proposals respectfully forward in addition to the many important recommendations of the Taskforce itself and those presented separately by the AAUP-AFT.

Additional Information:
Taskforce on Undergraduate Education
http://ur.rutgers.edu/transform_ru/

Rutgers AAUP-AFT Fulltime Faculty Response
<http://www.rutgersaaup.com/news/December2005newsletter.htm#tueaaupaft>

New Brunswick Faculty Council Response
http://nbfc.rutgers.edu/year05_06/NBFCFTFRecsfinal.pdf



"Here's the brain-teaser of the day:
If a Part-time Lecturer falls in the hall, does anyone hear it?"

STRATEGY PLANS DEVELOP

It's not too early to discuss plans for developing strategy around the next collective negotiations. Although the current contract does not expire for a year and a half, the PTLFC has been involved in discussions with the full-time faculty and TA unit of the Rutgers AAUP-AFT about developing priorities and goals. As this conversation unfolds and plans emerge, we will communicate with members. Make sure you're in the loop as a full member of the PTLFC-AAUP-AFT. Join now if you haven't already done so.

PART-TIME PROFILE: Maya Ruvinshteyn

“A wise teacher makes learning a joy.” (Proverb)

Because the new PTL Professional Development Fund is being implemented for the first time now, we want to focus, in the next few part-time profiles, on PTLs with research projects.

Although PTLs at Rutgers are not compensated for research, many of them are productive, generating and publishing in a variety of research areas.



Maya Ruvinshteyn is one of those productive PTLs, working on the effects of music in the mathematical classroom. The results of this work were discussed in workshops at Essex County College and were presented at the 16th Annual Conference of the New Jersey Faculty Development Network last April. This project posits that the playing of music, particularly classical Baroque-style music, in math classes enhances learning and improves the classroom environment. Dr. Ruvinshteyn, working cooperatively with Dr. Leonard Parrino, conducted a three year study in classes at Essex County College examining how some types of music can speed up the learning process. Focusing on college level and developmental level courses, results showed that playing Baroque-style music during class time improved students' attitudes toward class and subject matter. Classes became more cooperative, flexible and easier to teach. Details of the research project are available from Dr. Ruvinshteyn at ruvshte@aol.com or mayaru@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

Dr. Ruvinshteyn is also one of those PTLs who teaches at multiple institutions in addition to conducting research projects. At Rutgers, she teaches calculus and linear algebra at the Newark Campus, while at Future@Verizon she teaches telecommunications and at Essex County College she teaches a variety of college level and developmental courses. She has published numerous articles on linear and quadratic magneto-optical effects, a research area pursued for her PhD in Physics and Mathematics at Tashkent State University in Uzbekistan (USSR). As a teacher she was always looking for different methods to enhance learning. Music is only one of the tools in her toolbox.

When asked about the importance of the Part-Time Chapter of the AAUP-AFT at Rutgers, Dr. Ruvinshteyn explained: “We are doing one of the most important works at the University – we are teaching. For many students, we represent the face of this school. Our work has to be highly professional and protected financially and socially.” Here’s

another Rutgers PTL working to make students successful.

NATIONAL AAUP ELECTION

In the next month, full members of the Rutgers AAUP-AFT will be receiving ballots for election of National AAUP Officers including a New Jersey representative to the National AAUP Executive Council. There are two candidates for the New Jersey Representative: Karen Thompson of Rutgers and Nancy Stevenson of UMDNJ. You can access their campaign statements online and will later receive the statements along with other election materials in the regular mail if you are a member. Rep fee payers do not vote. Join today so you will be eligible to vote. Election information: <http://www.aaup.org/aboutaaup/electionpage.html>

AMY BAHRUTH WINS AAUP AWARD



President of our Part-time Chapter of the AAUP-AFT, Amy Bahruth has been selected to receive the AAUP State Conference Part-Time Faculty Teaching Award. She was nominated by Professor Emeritus, Wells

Keddie, because of a combination of flexible approaches to her subject matter (Labor Studies) and a capacity for hard work that those who know her find truly amazing.

She graduated from Rutgers in Labor Studies during the 1980s and went to Hunter College, CUNY, for a degree in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences in 1991, supported by a NIOSH Fellowship and mentored by Prof. David Kotelchuck.

She currently serves as president of the PTL Chapter of the Rutgers AAUP/AFT and has served as Vice-President and a board member since 2002. She draws upon her experience in those positions to enrich her classes much to her students' delight.

AAUP STATE CONF ANNUAL MTG

Bahruth will receive her award at the NJ-AAUP State conference annual meeting on Saturday, April 8, 2006. The topic is “Academic Freedom in a Time of Security,” and the keynote speaker is Jonathan Knight, national AAUP, Director of the Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance. The day will include the business meeting of the NJ-AAUP State Conference.

April 8, 2006 8:45 A.M.- 2:30 P.M., Labor Education Center, Rutgers University

Rutgers AAUP-AFT will cover the cost, but you need to be a member to attend. Contact Denise Borusewicz at (732) 445-2278 x 10 to RSVP.