



SEIU Local 2579

Contract Negotiations NEWS

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE

#9 / MAY 20, 2008

FY 2008/09 COMPENSATION: CSUEU AND CSU BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS

The 2006/2009 Contract between CSUEU and CSU provided for wage increases in FY 2007 and FY 2008 predicated on the assumption the CSU would receive one per cent above the “compact” between the Governor and the Chancellor. In 2006, the CSU publicly proclaimed the goal of reducing faculty and staff salary lags within five years. In order to realize this goal, the CSU pledged to fight for additional funding from the state budget; that is why our agreement provided for one percent above compact funding. As pledged, the Chancellor’s Office requested additional funding in their budget for FY 2008/09. However, due to the economic downturn affecting the state and the nation, the 2007 state budget provided no state general funds above the compact, and the 2008 budget may not even approach compact funding. All other CSU union contracts are based solely on compact funding. Since it appears that the CSU will not be receiving any funds above the compact, CSUEU and CSU initiated bargaining on May 8th to negotiate a pay package based only on compact funding as a contingency. If the CSU receives less than compact funding, all of the unions will be returning to the bargaining table to explore options.

CSUEU presented a proposal that would be in line with the 4% compact figure for FY 2008/09. Our proposal would provide employees in Bargaining Units 2, 5, 7 and 9 with:

- a general salary increase (GSI) of 3.45%, effective July 1, 2008
- a service-based salary increase of 1%
- the equivalent of .75% GSI for system-funded in-range progressions

The CSU has not yet responded to the union’s proposal. Our next bargaining session will be held in August, at which time we should know more about the state budget.

MAY REVISE: GOVERNOR RESTORES NEARLY \$100 MILLION TO CSU; MAJOR CUTS STILL PROPOSED

The extraordinary organizing efforts of students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni who are part of the Alliance for the CSU have started to pay off. In the May 14, 2008, revisions to the state budget that was proposed in January 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger restored \$97.6 million to the CSU budget. This is good news, but it nonetheless leaves the CSU budget with cuts of \$288 million.

At the May 13-14 Board of Trustees meeting, the Trustees unanimously approved “Access to Excellence,” a new system-wide strategic plan. Major goals of this plan include reducing faculty and staff salary gaps and ensuring appropriate resources for professional development. It states that strategies “*should include a commitment to closing salary gaps where they exist, providing a safe and healthy environment, and offering appropriate levels of training and development.*”

These goals cannot possibly be met unless the CSU has sufficient resources in its budget. CSUEU strongly encourages its members to continue supporting the Alliance’s goals for full funding of the CSU.

To find out how you can help with these efforts, visit <http://allianceforthesu.org>

THE “L” WORD: LAYOFFS

To date, the CSUEU has not been notified of any layoffs of permanent staff on any of the CSU campuses. That is very good news, particularly when contrasted with the layoffs faced in 2003, 2004 and the early 1990’s. While those budget years were bad, they pale in comparison to the \$17 billion deficit the state is now facing. That is why it is essential for us to continue to reinforce the value of the CSU and to work with the Alliance for the CSU. Each chapter should ensure that our membership is fully engaged.

CSUEU President Pat Gantt believes that this year’s state budget process will take longer than usual and that the CSU may not start substantial negotiations until they know more about the budget. We will continue to keep you informed about both the state budget deliberations as well as our negotiations with the CSU regarding compensation for FY 2008/09.

UNIT 2 / Health Care Support ■ UNIT 5 / Operations Support ■ UNIT 7 / Clerical/Administrative Support ■ UNIT 9 / Technical Support

1129 10th Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 319-4800 • (866) 763-1452 (Toll-free) • www.csueu.org