

TALKING POINTS ON MSCA CONTRACT FUNDING FIRST WEEK IN JUNE

MSCA day faculty and librarians,

Please contact your state representative, House Ways and Means Chairman **Charles Murphy**, and House Speaker **Robert DeLeo** *this week* and urge them to pass H. 4396 – the supplemental budget that contains funding for the MSCA contract – by July 31, 2010, the close of the formal legislative session.

House Speaker Robert DeLeo: Robert.DeLeo@state.ma.us, (617) 722-2500

Chairman Charles Murphy: Rep.CharlesMurphy@hwm.state.ma.us, (617) 722-2990

Talking Points:

1. State college faculty and librarians agreed to a salary freeze for FY 2008.
2. State college faculty salaries are not comparable to those of faculty at our peer institutions as has been demonstrated by repeated salary analyses by our employer and those conducted by the Massachusetts State College Association. (E.g., 2004 study by state college presidents and trustees, 2004 MSCA study of public institutions in industrialized states, 2007 study by Sibson Consulting) Further salary freezes will exacerbate this problem in two ways:
 - Massachusetts state college faculty salaries will continue to lag relative to the national labor market in which we recruit. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (April 12, 2010) reported that faculty salaries nationally increased 1.2% for the 2009-2010 academic year. Our increase for that same period would be 1.5%, if funded.
 - Massachusetts will develop a regrettable reputation as unreliable when a negotiated and ratified contract is denied legislative support, deterring candidates from applying for positions in Massachusetts.
3. Legislators should not fail to fund the reasonable salary increases in our contract because of a mistaken belief that public sector workers are so well-off compared to those in the private sector. (*Out of Balance? Comparing Public and Private Compensation over 20 Years*, Center for State & Local government Excellence and National institute on Retirement Security, April 2010) It is a myth that the private sector worker is making all the sacrifices; this operates to justify lowering labor standards in the public sector.
4. Our contract was negotiated over the course of 34 bargaining sessions and 14 months, during the worst of the economic recession. When the governor asked you, *in December*, to fund the contract, he stated in his cover letter, “**Sufficient revenues are estimated to be available to finance the appropriations. I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of this bill.**” It is now June.

Please fund the contract and please do so before July 31, 2010, the close of formal session