

To: MCCC Board of Directors

From: Donnie McGee, MCCC Vice President

Re: SAC/VP Report, Worcester, MA

Date: September 23, 2011

Legislative Update:

- Important Public Service Committee Hearings: Tuesday, 10/4/11, A-2, 1 pm (REMINDER)**
 - LOBBY Day & Hearing Date for the ORP Bill (S 1912)*
 - Hearing for MTA's Contract Funding Amendment Bill (H 2981)**
 - Hearing and Lobby Day for Early Childhood Educators Collective Bargaining Bill (H1671)
 - Note: Please contact Donnie McGee if you plan to attend any of these hearings. The Public Service Committee may have to change the location in order to accommodate those planning to attend.

***S. 1912 - An Act Relative to the Optional Retirement Program**

Permits higher education faculty and certain administrators enrolled in the Optional Retirement Program to transfer with creditable service to membership in the state retirement system conditioned upon their payment of sufficient funds as determined by the State Retirement Board (**Senator Marc Pacheco and Rep. Jay Kaufman**)

****H. 2981 - An Act Relative to Funding Collective Bargaining Agreements for State Employees***

Streamlines the process for legislative approval of collective bargaining agreements for state employees by requiring ratified agreements to be submitted directly to the Legislature. Such requests for funding would be deemed approved if the Legislature fails to approve or reject such requests within thirty days of submission. (**Rep. Martin Walsh**)

- ORP Campaign (S. 1912)**
 - The ORP amendment (S. 1912) was included in the Senate pension package.
 - The House pension bill is not expected to be debated until after 10/4/11.
 - The Public Service Committee Hearing & Lobby Day on S. 1912 is still scheduled for 10/4.
 - The emphasis: ORP, SAC, and campus leaders should work together to lobby legislators, especially Representatives to support S. 1912; legislators need to be asked to contact PSC Chairs (Sen. Katherine Clark and Rep. John Scibak)
 - ORP faculty & SAC leaders from each campus are being asked to attend hearing at 1 pm and lobby legislators at the State House, if possible.
 - State House Room 437 is reserved from 10:30 am to 12:45 pm on 10/4/11, for coffee and lobbying materials; a box lunch will be reserved for those who indicate they will be lobbying that morning and/or testifying at the hearing and want a lunch. (Friday noon: Deadline for luncheon numbers and numbers of those attending the hearings in Room A-2)
 - Related emails will be sent next week.

- The MTA and MCCC will be supporting the inclusion of S. 1912 in the House pension reform package, while also fighting against any future cuts to the benefits of future educators.

ORP Ad Hoc Committee: A meeting was held in September 13, 2011. The twenty-one members attending included 5 guests from the State Universities and the UMass system. The focus was on the possibility of an ORP Amendment being included in the Senate pension bill and the Public Service Committee hearing on S. 1912 and the related Lobby Day on October 4, 2011.

Strategic Action Committee: A meeting was held on September 21, 2011. The agenda included the upcoming hearings before the Public Service Committee on October 4th and the need for SAC Representatives to work with ORP faculty leaders on each campus on the current ORP campaign.

Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) News: Expansion of eligibility to MCCC Librarians - Update

- Legislation to expand the ORP not only includes librarians and administrators, but basically all non-classified staff in public higher ed. institutions in Massachusetts.
- HR departments have begun to inform new **and existing hires** of their eligibility.
- Professional staff who are not vested in the State Employees Retirement System (SERS) will be “invited” by the Department of Higher Education to join. All eligible members will have 90 days to enroll in the ORP, beginning 10/1/11. All eligible employees should take the time needed to get the facts about both retirement systems, talk with MCCC colleagues in both plans, and talk with a financial planner before finalizing any retirement decision.