

LEGISLATIVE ALERT #1
AAUP/FSVA/VCU FACULTY SENATE
JANUARY 5, 2011

Tell Virginia Legislators: Keep your promise! No pay cuts!

PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING SIMPLE THINGS TO PROTECT YOUR SALARY:

- Send an e-mail to your Delegate and Senator urging them to reject pay cuts for state employees;
- Send an e-mail to Delegates and Senators on the key committees urging them to reject pay cuts for state employees;
- Please copy me on your e-mails (btturner@rmc.edu);
- Come to Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day at the General Assembly on January 13! (Okay, this one isn't that simple, but it is important and a lot of fun!)

Dear colleagues,

As most of you know, on December 16, 2010, Governor McDonnell informed all state employees of his plans to present legislation that would require state employees to pay the 5% "employee contribution" to the Virginia Retirement System. The Commonwealth began paying the "employee contribution" in 1983 in lieu of a pay raise. This 5% cut in pay would be compensated by a 3% pay raise. Furthermore, faculty in the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) would see the state's contribution to their retirement reduced by 1.9%. This will effectively result in a **2% pay cut** for all Virginia state employees! While the Governor holds out the possibility of recovering the 2% with bonuses, not all employees will receive the bonus (perhaps no one will), and a bonus does not compensate for the full 5% in future years.

It is **urgent** that you contact your legislators, and legislators on the key compensation committees, before next Wednesday! Legislators need to hear now from constituents. The position paper we will distribute to legislators on January 13 is attached separately. Please send it as an attachment in an e-mail message to your legislators, with a brief, polite message identifying yourself and your concern, asking them to read the position paper, and urging them to reject any pay cut for state employees.

To contact your representatives, go to <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>. You will then have to click on the "More about Delegate/Senator" button to get the e-mail address.

To contact key compensation committee members, paste these e-mail addresses into the "To" line: district29@senate.virginia.gov; district40@senate.virginia.gov; district12@senate.virginia.gov; district05@senate.virginia.gov; district32@senate.virginia.gov; district13@senate.virginia.gov; district20@senate.virginia.gov; DelLPutney@house.virginia.gov; DelKCox@house.virginia.gov; DelCJones@house.virginia.gov; DelBTata@house.virginia.gov; DelRIngram@house.virginia.gov; DelJMay@house.virginia.gov; DelCPOindexter@house.virginia.gov; DelOWare@house.virginia.gov

**To participate in Virginia Higher Education Day, see the next page.
Thank you for taking this action!**

Higher Education Advocacy Day

January 13, 2011

Schedule of Activities

Feel free to contact the VCU organizers. Pat Cummins' e-mail address is pcummins@vcu.edu, her cell phone is (804) 536-0429, and her home phone is (804) 893-3490. Bob Andrews' e-mail address is rlandrew@vcu.edu and his cell phone is 804-512-9681.

WHERE TO MEET. SCHOOL OF NURSING BUILDING 1100 Leigh Street

Driving directions to the MCV Campus:

<http://www.maps.vcu.edu/mcv/directions.html>

Visitor parking on MCV campus:

<http://www.maps.vcu.edu/mcv/esdeck/>

The location of the Nursing Building:

<http://www.maps.vcu.edu/mcv/nursingbuilding/index.html>

WHERE TO PARK. Parking is readily available in public lots throughout downtown. The closest to the School of Nursing is public parking on Eighth Street and Leigh Street. The link above also leads you to the patient parking area on 12th Street

- 8:40 A.M. Coffee available at VCU School of Nursing Student Lounge
(1st floor of the Nursing Building)
- 9:15 A.M. Welcome by VCU Faculty Senate President, AAUP President, and FSVA
President (School of Nursing Student Lounge)
- Mark Rubin Legislative updates
- 9:45 A.M. Distribution of promotional materials (Sch. of Nursing Student Lounge)
- 10:00 A.M. Visits to legislative offices (Capitol complex – 4 blocks from Nursing)
- 11:00 A.M. Presentation of the Colonel Michael S. Harris Award to Senator Edd Houck
(Senate Room 326)
- 12:00 Noon Light lunch available (Sch. of Nursing Student Lounge)
- 1:00 P.M. Visits to legislative offices
- 4:30 P.M. End of visits

Information on legislative offices to visit will be available when you arrive. Confirm your participation with pcummins@vcu.edu and Brian Turner bturner@rmc.edu to help us plan better for visits and food.