“From 1975 to 2011, the number of tenure-track and tenured professors increased by only 35.6 percent nationwide, while the number of part-time professors increased by 305.3 percent.” Source: Equality for Contingent Faculty: The Two-Tier System, ed. by Keith Hoeller. Vanderbilt U Press, 2014.

“Whether some adjunct [part-time] faculty piece together a living from their teaching job or only use it to supplement a more stable primary career elsewhere, many contingent faculty might best be classified as working poor.” Source: The Just-In-Time Professor: A Report Summarizing eForum Responses on the Working Conditions of Contingent Faculty in Higher Education. January 2014.

“The academic work force has been transformed over the past several decades, less by design than out of expedience. In 1969, professors who were either tenured or tenure-track made up 78 percent of the faculty. Those working part-time made up only 18.5 percent. By 2009, those proportions had almost flipped, with tenured and tenure-track making up just 33.5 percent, and those working part-time nearly 50 percent.” Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education, October 14, 2012, by Robin Wilson.

“We hope, through the Academic Workforce Data Center, to discover best (and worst) practices in North American higher education and to use those data to improve working conditions for every faculty member who works off the tenure track.” Source: President’s Column, Avenues of Access, MLA Newsletter, Fall 2012.

“URI’s part-time faculty have not received a salary increase for the past 12 years.” Source: URI Part-Time Faculty United, Fall 2013.

“Tuition dollars generated by URI’s PTF for 1136 course sections taught totaled $52.8 million dollars; salary paid to PTF for 1136 course sections taught totaled $3.98 million dollars. Total URI income: $48.82 million dollars.” Source: URI/PTFU Newsletter, January 2009.
“Following a review of best practices in various institutions, the MLA recommends minimum compensation for 2012-13 of $6,920 for a standard 3-credit-hour semester or $4,610 for a standard 3-credit-hour quarter or trimester course. . . . If compensation were specifically tied, pro rata, to MLA's 2012-13 recommendation of $45,310 minimum annual salary for an entry-level full-time instructor, these rates would be $7,550 for a standard 3-credit semester course and $5,035 for a 3-credit or trimester course.” Source: MLA Recommendation on Minimum Per-Course Compensation for Part-Time Faculty Members (April 9, 2012).

“Adjunct, contingent faculty members now make up over 1 million of the 1.5 million people teaching in American colleges and universities. Many of them are working at or under the poverty line [and] without health insurance.” Source: Michael Berube, Among the Majority. MLA Newsletter, January 2012.

Almost all of the advocacy groups speaking on behalf of part-time faculty have long argued that the only fair compensation for part-time faulty appointments is a pro-rated compensation comparable to the salary of full-time faculty members. The AAUP has been at the forefront on this issue as stated in their 1993 recommendation that “compensation for part-time appointments should be the applicable fraction of the compensation (including benefits) for a comparable full-time position.” Source: Background Facts on Contingent Faculty, American Association of University Professors, 2012.

“If institutions [of higher education] are going to do anything to improve the working conditions of non-tenure-track faculty members . . . they must pay them a salary commensurate with a decent level of professional respect and dignity. . . . Their labor will still be dehumanizing if it doesn’t garner a living wage with benefits.” (Berube, Among the Majority)

URI PTFU NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

PLEASE ATTEND THE SPRING SEMESTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAY 1, 2014, 3:30 PM
WARWICK, RI
(ANNOUNCEMENT & AGENDA TO FOLLOW)

Prepared by URI/Part-Time Faculty United Negotiation Committee
April 2014