

AAUP OAKLAND UPDATE

JANUARY 14, 2010

On January 8 the AAUP received information on Athletic Department salaries that had been requested in mid-August.

- **9 members of the Athletic Department staff received raises in June 2009**—on the eve of President Russi's declaration of a salary freeze.
- **These raises were as high as 34.23% and as low as 3.25 %.** President Russi's wife, basketball coach Beckie Francis received a 6.19% raise. A 10th coach received a 14.14% pay raise in August.
- **10 members of the Athletic Department staff received raises in December 2008 and January 2009.**
- **These winter raises ranged from 14.14% to 3.25%.** (One coach received raises in both the winter and summer.)
- **3 head coaches, 2 assistant coaches, and 4 staff members received performance bonuses ranging from \$7,408 to \$250 during the first half of 2009.**

On June 22, President Russi stated, "Effective July 1, the university will institute a salary freeze for executives, administrators, and other staff. This represents just the first step in a series of measures the university will likely have to take in order to maintain the integrity of academic programs and protect as many jobs as possible."

This seemingly unambiguous statement of salary policy was violated in both spirit and in fact for the purpose of making our Athletic Department salaries competitive with other schools in the Summit League.

This begs the question, "**Why were the President, his Cabinet, and Athletic Dept. given much higher raises than any other employees of the university?**"

The LCME accreditation documentation promised by President Russi on November 19 has still not been deposited in Kresge Library. However, documentation we have secured provides some information about the School of Medicine's (SOM) impact on university spending.

- **The salaries for the Dean and Associate Deans of the SOM are slightly over \$1.1 million.** Like most university employees, they received additional compensation in the form of benefits.
- **The renovation of O'Dowd Hall for the SOM was budgeted at \$1.8 million.** (This compares to the total \$1.6 million increase the administration will have to budget over the next 3 years to meet its contract obligations with the 650 AAUP members.)

On November 19, President Russi pledged to give \$100,000 to the university, to compensate for negative public reaction to his 40% raise in 2008. Original justification for this raise was to bring his compensation in line with that of other university presidents – despite the weak economy in Michigan and questions over state university funding.

Also in 2008, Oakland University:

- **revived the position of Senior Vice President**
- **increased the number of Vice Presidents from 4 to 6**
- **created the position of Executive Assistant to the President**

All of these senior administrators received raises ranging from 5% to 13.7%.