

ARTICLE VII GRIEVANCES

The Board and the Congress recognize the importance of adjusting grievances fairly without fear of prejudice or reprisal. Accordingly, the Board and the Congress agree that they will encourage the prompt settlement of grievances which may arise between a professional staff member, a group of the professional staff, or the union and the employer. Unless otherwise provided within this Agreement, the orderly processes hereinafter set forth shall be the sole method used for the resolution of all grievances.

The parties recognize that some grievances filed may concern the interpretation or application of language common to the Union and one or more of the other unions representing unclassified professional employees of the System. In such cases, the other union or unions shall be necessary parties with the rights to be present and heard.

Section 1. Informal Adjustments

Whenever possible, problems affecting professional staff members should be adjusted between the professional staff member and the immediate supervisor or within the college structure through the level of President if necessary. Any professional staff member in the bargaining unit may present and discuss his/her complaint with appropriate management representatives and may be represented by the Congress in this process. The Congress may present and discuss with appropriate management representatives any complaint on its own behalf, but not on behalf of a professional staff member or professional staff members. These presentations or discussions shall be entirely informal. Any settlement, withdrawal, or disposition of a complaint at the informal stage shall not constitute a binding precedent in the settlement of similar complaints or grievances. Such matters shall not be deemed grievances and their settlement shall not establish any precedent whatsoever for the resolution of any problems between a professional staff member and the immediate supervisor, the college, or the Board. If a bargaining unit member believes that a problem or concern constitutes a grievance, he or she may request that the President agree to extend the time for filing the grievance for up to fifteen calendar days, as provided in 2D below.

Section 2. Grievance Procedure

A. Definition.

If any professional staff member, group of professional staff members, or the Congress should have a complaint as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement, such complaint shall constitute a grievance subject to settlement pursuant to this Section.

In processing grievances under this Section at Levels One and Two, the parties shall not be precluded from considering questions of equity, provided, however, that any resolution based upon equity shall not constitute a waiver of the right to assert

appropriate contractual provisions in any like case unless such right is expressly waived in writing by the Chancellor.

B. Union Representation.

Grievants shall have the right to representation by the union at each and every level of the procedure outlined in this Section.

When an individual employee or group of employees elects to submit a grievance without union representation, the union's representative shall be provided a copy of the pending grievance and shall have the right to be present at any discussions of the grievance, except that if the employee does not wish to have the union representative present, the union representative shall not attend the meeting but shall be provided a copy of the written response to the grievance and no such response shall constitute an interpretation of this Agreement binding on the union.

C. Steps.

A grievance shall be filed on a form mutually agreed upon by the Board and the Congress. If the grievance involves an action of the Board or a matter of general applicability within the System, the grievance may be filed at Level Two, provided however that such grievances must be filed within thirty (30) calendar days after the grievant knew, or should have known, of the act or conditions on which the grievance is based. All other grievances shall be processed in accordance with the following:

(1) Level One – President

Within thirty (30) calendar days after he/she knew or should have known of the act or conditions upon which the grievance is based, the grievant shall present the grievance in writing to the President, specifying the facts, rationale, the section or provision of the Agreement alleged to have been violated and remedy sought, provided that this requirement shall not be interpreted to limit the right to amend a grievance. Failure to file the grievance within the time prescribed shall result in a waiver of the grievance. The President or designee shall meet with the grievant for the purpose of resolving the grievance and shall, within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of the written grievance, or the meeting with the grievant, render his/her decision and reasons therefore in writing to the grievant and the Congress office.

(2) Level Two – Chancellor

If the grievance is not resolved at Level One or the written decision of the President or his/her designee is not rendered within the time specified, the grievant may then appeal the grievance to the Chancellor but, if he/she chooses to appeal to the Chancellor, the grievance shall be filed within ten (10) calendar days of the receipt of the President's or his/her designee's answer or within ten (10) calendar days after the end of the time specified in Level One for said answer.

Failure to file with the Chancellor within the time specified shall be deemed to be acceptance of the decision rendered at Level One. The Chancellor or his/her designee shall meet with the grievant and shall render a written decision within twenty-one (21) calendar days of receipt of the grievance or the meeting with the grievant.

D. Extension of Time Limits.

Any of the specified time limits may be extended by mutual agreement between the grievant or his union representative and the President, or Chancellor, as the case may be, provided, however, that in no case shall the period of time for filing a grievance be extended more than an additional fifteen (15) calendar days except by the Chancellor or his/her designee. Any extension shall be in writing.

E. Appearances.

Whenever possible, grievance meetings shall be scheduled so as not to interfere with professional responsibilities of individuals involved. If it is necessary to meet with the employer during working hours, the grievant, one union representative who is a member of the bargaining unit, and necessary witnesses may attend without loss of time or compensation for such meetings.

F. Information.

Upon reasonable notice, the Board shall make available to the Congress any relevant information as provided by applicable law.

G. Remand.

In the event that new information is introduced or new arguments presented at Level Two, the matter may be remanded to Level One for further consideration.

Section 3. Mediation Panel

There shall be a bipartite mediation panel which shall consist of two members selected for the Board and two members selected for the Congress. The panel shall be selected from two lists established in advance by the parties. Within sixty (60) days of the signing of this Agreement and whenever necessary thereafter, representatives of the parties shall meet to designate the individuals to be placed on said lists. The parties may by mutual agreement submit a grievance which has not been resolved at Level Two to the panel which shall hear the positions of the respective parties and endeavor to effect an amicable resolution. In the event that resolution is not possible, the sole authority of the panel shall be to make a confidential report and recommendation to the Chancellor with a copy to the Congress. The Chancellor shall within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of the report of the mediation panel render his/her decision and reasons therefore to the grievant with a copy to the Congress.

Section 4. Arbitration

A. Notice.

If the grievance is not resolved satisfactorily to the grievant at Level Two of the grievance procedure set forth in Section 2 of this Article, or in the mediation process, the Congress may proceed to arbitration by filing a written notice by certified mail with the Chancellor. Such notice must be postmarked within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt by the grievant of the Level Two or mediation decision or within thirty (30) calendar days of the expiration of the time for said answer, whichever is later.

B. Selection.

The parties shall attempt to select an arbitrator by mutual agreement. In the event that the parties do not agree upon an arbitrator within thirty (30) days of the notice provided for in paragraph A above, the grievance may be submitted to the American Arbitration Association, and the arbitrator shall be selected from a panel provided by the AAA pursuant to their rules and procedures. The arbitration shall be conducted under said rules and procedures. The foregoing shall not prevent the parties from otherwise agreeing to submit a matter to an arbitrator or arbitration panel other than pursuant to the AAA's rules and procedures.

C. Arbitrator's Authority.

(1) The arbitrator shall not have any power, right or authority to add to, subtract from, modify, change, or alter any of the terms or provisions or the express intent of this Agreement.

(2) The arbitrator shall be without power, right or authority to make a decision in the following areas beyond a determination as to whether the provisions set forth in this Agreement as to these areas were violated. Beyond making such a determination, the arbitrator shall not substitute his/her judgment for that of the Board or its representatives:

(a) any incident which occurred or failed to occur prior to the effective date of this Agreement, provided that grievances filed which antedate this Agreement shall not be deemed to be waived by reason of the execution of this Agreement;

(b) the failure or refusal by the Board to renew the contract of or reappoint a member of the bargaining unit on a standard appointment;

(c) disputes over alleged unlawful discrimination as set forth in Section 2 of Article II of this Agreement, except as provided in Section 4 of that Article;

(d) changes in job descriptions or assigned duties or classifications and pay grades for newly created positions;

(e) the granting of a promotion;

- (f) the granting of a tenure appointment;
- (g) the granting of sabbatical leave;
- (h) the granting of leaves for professional development;
- (i) the substance of an evaluation;
- (j) termination or reassignment for special reasons in accordance with Article XIII.

In the event that the arbitrator determines that the contractual provisions in these areas have been violated as alleged, his/her award shall direct that appropriate action be taken, which may include a reassessment of the original decision, but in no event shall such award have the result or effect of granting a promotion, tenure appointment, sabbatical leave, or leave for professional development.

(3) If notice that further employment will not be offered is inadequate solely upon the basis that it was not given on time as provided in this Agreement, the arbitrator may direct the Board to renew the appointment only upon a finding that no other remedy is adequate or that notice was given so late that the professional staff member was deprived of a reasonable opportunity to seek other employment, provided that such award or reappointment shall be for no more than one (1) appointment period and without right to further employment.

(4) An arbitrator's decision that may award employment that extends beyond the sixth year of employment shall not entitle the professional staff member to a tenure appointment. In such cases, the professional staff member shall serve during the seventh year as if such service had been performed during the sixth year of employment.

(5) Those inherent management rights not restricted by a specific provision of this Agreement are not directly or indirectly subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure.

D. Hearing.

The arbitration hearing shall be held in the City of Hartford, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties. The arbitrator's decision shall issue within thirty (30) calendar days of the close of the hearing or the submission of briefs, whichever is later, unless additional time is agreed to by the parties. The decision shall be in writing and shall set forth findings of fact, reasoning, and conclusions on the issues submitted.

E. Arbitrability.

(1) In the event that the Board challenges the substantive arbitrability of a grievance in a proceeding prior to arbitration, the guidelines articulated in the Steelworkers Trilogy shall be applied.

(2) The submission of questions of substantive arbitrability to the arbitrator in the first instance shall not constitute a waiver of the right to a fresh review without being bound by the arbitrator's decision over such questions, provided that this shall neither enlarge nor diminish the standard for review of questions of substantive arbitrability. The parties have not agreed as to whether the Trilogy is dispositive of post-arbitration decisions reviewing questions of substantive arbitrability.

F. Decision and Review.

The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the Board, the Congress, and the grievant in accordance with the statutes of Connecticut. The parties intend that arbitral decisions (other than questions of substantive arbitrability addressed in the foregoing paragraph) shall be reviewable in accordance with the standards established in Enterprise Wheel.

G. Costs.

All fees and expenses of the arbitrator shall be divided equally between the parties. Each party shall bear the cost of preparing and presenting its own case. Any party desiring a transcript of the proceedings shall bear the cost.

H. Individual Rights.

It is understood that the procedure provided by this Article is not intended to address claims not within the scope of this procedure.

ARTICLE VIII MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

Section 1. College Files

Each college in the Connecticut Community College System shall three official files for each member of its professional staff: (1) a personnel file, (2) a professional file, and (3) an application file.

A. Personnel File.

The personnel file shall include the following: (1) record of salary, increments, and change of status; (2) record of leaves of absence, vacations, and personal leave days; (3) sickness reports; (4) records of payments for insurance, retirement benefits, etc.; (5) record of accrued longevity; and (6) general fiscal data. These records shall be accessible on a reasonable basis to the professional staff member concerned.

B. Professional File

Subject to the provisions specified hereinafter, the President of the college shall be responsible for the confidentiality, control, and content of the professional file. The foregoing shall not be interpreted to override applicable law with regard to disclosure. The file may include only the following: (1) information relating to the professional staff member's academic and professional accomplishments; (2) records