June 22, 2012

UC, AFSCME Begin Contract Negotiations for Patient Care Technical Employees in June 2012

University of California medical centers provide some of the nation’s best patient care, a standard the university is committed to preserving and building upon. UC recognizes that its talented and dedicated workforce, including more than 12,000 patient care technical (PCT) employees, play a vital role in delivering top-quality medical care. The university understands that providing attractive working conditions and a competitive compensation package is key to recruiting and retaining its excellent staff and, ultimately, in sustaining UC’s public service mission.


UC Bargaining Goals
The university is committed to providing competitive wages, benefits and working conditions to attract and retain a quality workforce. UC aims to be an employer of choice, and a responsible public steward to the many patients who depend on our health care enterprise for the best medical care.

UC’s major goals for this negotiation include:
• Preserving UC’s ability to provide uninterrupted, excellent health care at its medical centers;
• Reaching a multi-year contract that provides certainty and stability both for the university and PCT employees;
• Providing competitive wages and benefits that fairly compensate staff for their skills and dedication, and allow UC to attract new talent;
• Conducting professional and respectful negotiations in a timely manner;
• Negotiating a contract that addresses all key issues, including wages, health care benefits and post-employment benefits to preserve the long-term viability of the university’s retirement programs;
• Ensuring responsible, proactive decision-making that safeguards the overall financial health and standing of UC.

UC’s Commitment to Constructive Negotiations and a Fair Contract
The university works hard to build effective, respectful relationships with the labor unions that represent its employees. UC bargains in good faith, and seeks to resolve differences in a professional and efficient manner.
UC is fully committed to conducting fair and efficient negotiations with AFSCME-PCT for a multi-year agreement that covers all key issues.

**Bargaining Update #1**

UC and AFSCME held their first bargaining session for a new contract covering the Patient Care Technical unit (PCT) on Wednesday, June 20, 2012. The parties discussed ground rules for negotiations, and expressed mutual interest in good faith bargaining resulting in an agreement before Sept. 30, 2012, when the current contract expires.

UC will continue to allow those AFSCME service employees who are part of the Service unit (SX) and who have requested union business leave to attend these bargaining sessions, as long as it does not adversely affect the university’s operations and is consistent with the terms of the SX agreement. To date, no reasonable requests for union business leave have been denied.

UC and AFSCME are in the process of finalizing dates for the next bargaining session. We will be sure to provide updates as bargaining progresses.