

February 28, 2009

Mandatory Unpaid Furloughs at UNR?

What are furloughs? Furloughs save labor costs without laying off employees. Employees are required to reduce work time and to receive lower compensation. Current furloughs affect the University of Maryland, Utah State University (USU) and Arizona State University (ASU), where UNR President Milton Glick was a former provost. At ASU, the furlough, from January 28 to June 30, 2009, is expected to save \$24 million. The following quote from ASU President Michael Crow describes their furlough: *“The length of any individual employee’s furlough will be determined by three general job classifications: University administrators (including the president, vice presidents and deans) – 15 days; Classified staff – 10 days; All other employees – 12 days, except for those who do not work a full week or work less than a 12-month schedule, in which case their furloughs will be prorated. Depending on the length of an individual’s furlough, the salary loss would be equivalent to 8 percent to 12 percent of the employee’s remaining fiscal year 2009 salary. Faculty members will take furloughs on days they don’t teach class, and supervisors of staff members will be staggering furloughs so that the university remains fully operational. Employees will be allowed some flexibility in scheduling their furlough days, but they are encouraged to consider scheduling the furlough days proportionally across all remaining pay periods in the current fiscal year. Furloughed employees are eligible to apply for unemployment compensation for time lost.”* USU’s furlough was announced February 2, 2009, and is expected to save USU \$5.6 million in fiscal year 2009. It applies a uniform 2% pay cut, and will require mandatory leave without pay from March 9-13, the USU spring break. Additional furlough times will be distributed campus wide.

Could furloughs happen at UNR? Join the NFA now, for 50% of regular dues, if you would like for the NFA voice to represent your concerns.

By Dorothy Hudig, Ph.D., NFA Board Member.

Sources of information:

“Employers hit salaried staff with furloughs. Being sent home temporarily is still better than a layoff, many professionals say”, by Dana Mattioli and Sara Murray. Wall Street Journal, Feb. 24, 2009.

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http://www.usatoday.com/sports/college/2009-02-15-furloughs_N.htm Coaches at ASU affected.

http://www.sltrib.com/education/ci_11613218 "Economic crisis on campus: Utah State University furloughs employees Budget cuts » USU president says furlough is most compassionate response. By Kirsten Stewart. The Salt Lake Tribune. Posted: 02/02/2009 08:25:01 PM MST

http://www.usu.edu/ust/pdf/Furlough_letter.pdf. Utah State University President Stan Albrecht's letter 2-2-2009.