Follow up "Using Accumulated Sick Days Towards Retirement for Faculty Under ORP"

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Follow up "Using Accumulated Sick Days Towards Retirement for Faculty Under ORP"

Submitted for Aimao Zhang

2/25/2016

Question:

What is the response from GA Legislature? Can we only request the equivalent consideration regarding accumulated sick days?

Rationale:

The original request is only regarding sick days. The Senate added 2 additional requests: 1. We request equivalent consideration regarding accumulated sick days. 2. We request that ORP employer contributions match the total TRS employer contributions. 3. We request that the Georgia State Legislature reconsider the term of the vestment period and the permanence of the initial selection of a retirement plan. That is making the vestment period to 5 years and allowing ORP members the opportunity to join the TRS plan. Requests 2 and 3 need additional financial resources. If we only request the equivalent consideration regarding accumulated sick days, we may have a better chance of getting it.

Response:

3/18/2016 To date, the legislature has not allowed this. This (along with general raises, salary compression, etc) are typically addressed at the USG Faculty Council meetings with the Chancellor each Fall and Spring. However, if no legislation comes forth, this is moot. The bill to allow moving from ORP to TRS died in 14 after a second actuarial study found it would cost the system money; the chancellor stated last year he was unwilling to resurrect it. If faculty are really interested in this, my only suggestion is to talk about it with your representatives (Senator Jack Hill, Reps. Jan Tankersley, Butch Parrish, Jon Burns, et al.) – Pat
Minutes: 3/23/2016: One RFI from Tomasz Warchol and a follow-up from Aimao Zhang on using sick days toward retirement for ORP faculty, and other things which are in all honesty unfairness between ORP and TRS people including vesting time and so on. Sorry people the answer is that doesn’t belong on this campus. That requires legislative action. University System Faculty Council meets with the Chancellor twice a year. We’ll be meeting again at Valdosta State April 15th, and we regularly talk about such items. The Chancellor after the last issue about two years ago with allowing people to switch from ORP to TRS has stated categorically he’s rather unwilling to bring such items forward because they will cost the state money and the state legislature is not in such a good mood for that sort of thing. But if you really want to push for such, talk to your local state representatives and state senators: Jon Burns, Jack Hill, Jan Tankersley and so on. They’re the ones who are going to act on that one.