RIC/AFT Membership Approves T.A.

By a vote of 184-40 [82%-18%] (and one abstention) the RIC/AFT membership approved the tentative agreement between the BoG and the Union. The Contract now goes to the BoG for a final ratification vote, Monday, Sept. 19.

The completed ballots were counted by Victor Profughi, chair of the Elections Committee, Shani Carter, RIC/AFT Secretary, and Ed McDowell, chair of the Departmental Assembly, at the Union office, at Noon, Sept. 14. All RIC/AFT members were welcome to observe the counting. The 225 ballots returned to the Union office amount to 72% of the membership, the highest participation rate ever accomplished by the RIC/AFT. We want to thank everyone for giving this contract offer their consideration.

Once the BoG ratifies the agreement, copies will be distributed to each faculty member, and the Contract will be posted on the RIC/AFT web site. The agreement will go into effect immediately after the BoG vote, and extend through June 30, 2007.

The new Contract contains some improved language. We urge all faculty members to read the document and to become familiar with benefits we gained at the bargaining table. Implementation and enforcement of the agreement depend on members bringing any questions or concerns to the attention of the Union. As announced earlier, the Coalition has begun to deal with the issue of inadequate salaries across the board. Volunteers to work on this activity should contact the office.

Volunteers Needed

The Contract calls for four committees, composed equally of faculty and administration: Faculty Development (2 faculty), Faculty Load Credit-HBS (3 faculty), Intellectual Property (6 faculty) and Students’ Evaluation of Courses (3 faculty). These committees will either implement components of the agreement or develop potentially new contract language for the 2006-2007 academic year. Call the Union office to volunteer.

Jason L. Blank, President