Board (FASB) accounting principles, which are slightly different in their assumptions and calculations. Figure 2 presents a pie chart depicting average expenditures for all public institutions reporting under GASB accounting standards for the most recent academic year, 2012–13. When combining two- and four-year public institutions, we find that only about 31 cents on the dollar are spent on instructional salaries.

To be sure, this number does vary from institution to institution. On the whole, however, faculty salaries account for less than a third of total expenditures. Given that faculty salaries are not the largest expenditure at public colleges and universities, it is unlikely that they are the primary source of the increase in average net price tuition rates.

Figure 3 presents data collected by the AAUP as part of the Faculty Compensation Survey from 2008–09 to 2012–13. During this period, the highest salary growth was at


Source: AAUP Faculty Compensation Survey.