

Uncommon Sense

The Newsletter of the USF Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida
(UFF is a Florida Education Association affiliate)

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Join UFF today: visit our membership website at faculty.ourusf.org/join-uff/

Election Season

Each spring, the USF Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida elects its President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and UFF Senators and FEA Delegates. These positions are described in the article on *The Positions* on page 2.

Only current union members may make nominations, stand for election, run, and vote. We encourage all union members to consider standing for election, and to vote.

If you would like to stand for election, or if you think someone else would, please send a letter of nomination (or self-nomination!) to:

CHAIR, Election Committee
United Faculty of Florida
30238 USF Holly Drive
USF, Tampa 33620

Or email to: tauber@ourusf.org. The letter should contain: (1) your name, (2) the name of the nominee, and (3) the position the nomination is for.

All nominees are strongly encouraged to submit a short (250 words or less) self-description and/or campaign statement. In addition, all nominees should submit contact information (home & office addresses, phone numbers and email addresses; for details, see <http://www.uff.ourusf.org/letters/nomination.rtf>).

All nomination materials must be received by February 12 to be included in the ballot materials.

Election will be by secret mail ballot; members will be responsible for getting their ballots returned by the deadline. The ballots will be sent out in later February, and be due by March 24, when they will be counted at a chapter meeting on March 26; all union members are invited to attend.

On April 1, newly elected officers and representatives formally assume their duties.

Making UFF Yours

The United Faculty of Florida is a democracy. All UFF members are eligible to run for any executive or representative position, to vote in elections on candidates for those positions, and to attend Chapter meetings and participate setting the policy of the Chapter. Part representative democracy and part participatory democracy, the union is a volunteer organization arising from the efforts and energies of its membership.

But the university is so large and diverse that the union needs a structure to reach out to its constituents. And the union's duties are so broad and complex that it needs its constituents to provide their energy and expertise. **The union is just us; it is up to us to defend and advance the terms and conditions of our employment.**

The bylaws approved last fall created five standing committees that will do much of the work of the union, and we need people to pitch in. This is an opportunity to meet people from all over campus, to find out how the university itself really works, and help colleagues at the same time.

We encourage members to look at these five committees as opportunities, and to contact the chair of a committee that looks interesting. We are a volunteer organization, and we can use and will appreciate any and all helping hands.

Here are the committees:

The Bargaining Committee. Bargaining is 90 % preparation and 10 % drama. It's law, finance, fine print, big issues, debate, and teamwork. At stake is the contract itself, so if you want it done right, contact Mark Klisch, at mklisch@verizon.net.

The Communications Committee. This committee communicates with the faculty and

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The Elective Positions

The USF Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida consists of the members of the union in the USF UFF Bargaining Unit. The Chapter is a democracy, and policy is set at the Chapter meetings, and all union members are invited to attend.

The Chapter has three kinds of positions: elected executive positions, elected legislative positions, and appointed positions.

There are four elected executives. The **President** is the chief executive and chief spokesperson of the chapter. The **Vice President** assists the president, and fills the president's office if necessary. The **Secretary** composes minutes and other records of the Chapter. The **Treasurer** supervises the finances of the Chapter.

There are two kinds of elected representatives.

A **Senator** represents USF at the UFF Senate meetings, and there are typically two meetings a year. During the next term, the Senate will meet on September 25 – 26, 2010 in Orlando, and in January or February of 2011. The UFF Senate is the legislature of the UFF, and sets policy for the UFF. The number of senators from USF depends on union membership at USF (!); this year we get sixteen seats.

A **Delegate** represents UFF at the annual Florida Education Association Assembly. The FEA is the preeminent union representing teachers in Florida. The Assembly is the legislative body of the FEA, and will meet in October 28 – 30 in Orlando. Again, the size of the UFF delegation depends on the size of UFF's membership, and we will be informed soon how many seats we get.

The Chapter has a Constitution describing these offices, and it is on-line at <http://w3.usf.edu/~uff/Laws.html>.

Logistics

The USF Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida publishes two newsletters, **Uncommon Sense** (see <http://w3.usf.edu/~uff/US/index.html>) and a UFF Biweekly (or, if you prefer, a fortnightly) every other Thursday, which presents news and items of interest (past articles are archived

at <http://uff.ourusf.org/>) and announcing the Chapter meeting the next day. All members of the bargaining unit should be getting both newsletters: to get on the mailing lists, contact the UFF/USF Webmaster, Greg McColm, via uff_biweekly-owner@ourusf.org.

We have two websites, one on-campus at <http://w3.usf.edu/~uff/>, and one off-campus at <http://uff.ourusf.org/index.html>. Come and visit us!

This spring, the USF Chapter of the UFF will meet at times and places to be determined. On January 22, at noon, we will meet in SOC 384 to determine the meeting schedule and methods. All UFF members are invited – no, urged – to attend, for we are talking about how to make UFF more inclusive. Non-members are also welcome. Sandwiches and soda pop are free. Come and join the movement.

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professionals represented by the union, and handles the newsletters, websites, and whatever media the Twenty-first century brings us. We need new frontier people: contact Greg McColm at gmccolm@tampabay.rr.com.

The Grievance Committee. This committee handles the grievances, the violations of the contract. This involves conflict resolution, mediation, taking stands, making compromises, and witnessing the system at work. We need problem-solvers to contact Mark Klisch, at mklisch@verizon.net.

The Political Action Committee. This committee works with our affiliated and allied unions on policies and long-term goals, and how to use the process to get us there. We need people with vision and people with sharp eyes to contact Bob Welker, at Robertfwelker@aol.com.

The Services Committee. This is the committee that makes sure that faculty and professionals and union are together, and builds the lines of communication and collaboration that makes it all possible. Enablers of democracy are encouraged to contact Paul Terry at pterry4303@aol.com.