



UFAS News

United Faculty and Academic Staff (UFAS) is a labor union democratically organized to represent its members—faculty and academic staff at both the UW-Madison and UW-Extension. UFAS is an independent affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, Local #223, AFL-CIO.

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Time for Change

By Aaron Crandall, UFAS President

After serving as the UFAS President over the past couple of years, I have decided to not run for reelection and am excited to see possible change with new leadership for UFAS. I have enjoyed serving as your President, and have also enjoyed serving with so many loyal and committed members of this organization. I will continue to serve on the AFT-Wisconsin board as the Higher Education Vice President, and will also continue to be involved in UFAS, just not as an Officer. Lastly, I would like to personally thank **Jim Molenda** for all his many years of service to UFAS, serving as President, Vice President, interim Treasurer and Secretary, and so on. Jim will be retiring and will instead be a member and involved in the AFT-Wisconsin Retirees Council.

Teach-in for Adjuncts

Nearly 75% of faculty in higher education today are either part-time or contingent and off the tenure track. At UW-Madison, no one holds the job title of “adjunct,” but many lectures, TAs, faculty associates, and others are exactly that – adjunct. To connect with other adjuncts on campus, UFAS coordinated a teach-in as part of the National Adjunct Walkout Day on February 25th. Several dozen individuals from across campus turned out to learn more about part-time and contingent faculty work conditions and to meet one another. One clear take-away from the event is that we need to demand UW identify individuals who could be identified as adjunct. These are our folks and future members! Look for more to come from UFAS on organizing part-timers and contingent faculty. Contact Jason Lee at 13jlee@gmail.com if you have any suggestions and would like to be involved.

UFAS stands up to governor’s budget

UFAS members continue to hone their analysis, educate the community, and fight against the devastating impact of Governor Walker’s budget. The \$300 million he proposed cutting to UW and the quasi privatization through “public authority” status, would lead to layoffs, diminished services, and hurt the quality of education. UFAS was one of the first to take an official position against the cuts and against the public authority in early February. The full resolution can be seen [here](#). In addition to statements against the cuts and against the public authority, UFAS calls on the state legislature to re-invest in public education and commit to the support of Chapter 36 under which shared governance and tenure are protected in state statute. Additionally, the resolution calls for UW administration to commit to no staff layoffs and to making UW affordable and accessible to students of color and low-income students who would be disproportionately impacted by these cuts.

In support of these statements and in solidarity with students and other workers on campus, UFAS co-sponsored and participated in a solidarity rally against the cuts on UW campus on Feb. 14th. The rally, held on a frigid anniversary of the 2011 Uprising, drew hundreds to campus.



Faculty, staff, and students were freezing for a reason at Library Mall on Valentine’s Day.

Vote for UFAS Leadership Positions

Be sure to cast your ballot for UFAS leadership! Ballots were sent out electronically and are being done using SurveyMonkey. If you did not get a ballot and are a current member of UFAS, please contact ufas223@gmail.com. Ballots will continue to be accepted through Monday, May 18. On the ballot is: Chad Alan Goldberg for President; Shelle Michalak for Vice President; Aaron Crandall for 2nd Vice President; Amihan Huesmann for Treasurer; Jason Lee for Secretary; Theresa Duello for Grievance Chair; Shelle Michalak for Communications Chair; Susan Nossal for Equity and Diversity Chair; and Aaron Crandall for Academic Staff Chair. Vote today!

Thousands rally at the state Capitol to support workers' rights

When Republican leaders announced that they would be introducing so-called "right to work" legislation on Friday, Feb. 20, union activists and leaders were quick to organize in support of Wisconsin's working families. On short notice, thousands of union members and community supporters rallied at the state Capitol during the week, with even greater numbers coming together in solidarity on Saturday, Feb. 28. Over 1,750 citizens registered in opposition to the bill during its Senate hearing, with a mere 25 registering in favor. Despite overwhelming economic evidence and public outcry against the legislation, however, the bill advanced through the Senate and is expected to be signed by the Governor soon.



Members of AFT Local 212 (Milwaukee Area Technical College) at the Feb. 28 rally.

AFT-Wisconsin members and retirees joined the rally in force, with strong representation from every membership constituency. Many members traveled several hours to attend, including members from La Crosse, Milwaukee, Superior, Fond du Lac, and Eau Claire. Despite the fact that the proposed legislation would not impact their worksites directly, AFT-Wisconsin members said they were attending out of a sense of solidarity and justice. Several pointed to the slogan on their AFT-Wisconsin rally signs as the reason for their attendance: "An injury to one is an injury to all."

AFT-Wisconsin President Kim Kohlhaas offered testimony, calling on legislators to ask themselves "Why?" "People know that a strong union means a job that pays fair wages and provides safe working conditions," said Kohlhaas. "So why fast-track legislation that's designed to threaten those jobs?" Citing research showing that people in states with similar legislation have lower wages, are more likely to lack health insurance, and are more likely to die on the job, Kohlhaas called on legislators "to focus on what's been proven to create jobs and stimulate economic growth. We know that raising the minimum wage, accepting federal funding to expand Medicaid, and addressing the student loan debt crisis would put money in the pockets of Wisconsin's citizens—money that they would then spend to create jobs and rebuild our state's economy... Rather than spending time on legislation that will hurt Wisconsin's citizens, let's work together for a Wisconsin that works for all of us."

Upcoming Events

Union Meeting:

Tues, 5/5, 5pm, TITU - Review the slate of candidates for elections

Issue Forum on Budget Cuts:

TBD, Watch for more details

UFAS News:

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