



**United Faculty of Florida - USF Chapter  
21 January 2024**

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**Do you want the union to continue to protect your rights?**

Thanks to a new state law, in order for the United Faculty of Florida remain your union – *in order to continue to bargain for your rights and benefits* – the United Faculty of Florida needs to demonstrate to a state agency that faculty want to keep the union.

The union demonstrates faculty interest by winning a "certification election" conducted by that state agency (the [Public Employees Relations Commission \(PERC\)](#)). **But in order to get PERC to conduct the election, the union must submit a petition signed by at least 30% of the employees in the Bargaining Unit.** That petition consists of [Showing of Interest cards](#), each one signed by an employee of the Bargaining Unit.

Over Winter Break, the union sent out cards to home addresses for people to sign and return. We are now sending cards to campus addresses. **During the coming week, each employee in the Bargaining Unit should receive a packet in a 9 x 12 envelope from the United Faculty of Florida.** Inside is a letter asking people to sign and return enclosed cards (by campus mail) to:

United Faculty of Florida  
30238 USF Holly Drive

(They can also be sent by first class mail to United Faculty of Florida, 30238 USF Holly Dr., University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620.)

**Technicalities:** There are actually *two* cards in the packet because the lawyers want two cards from each employee. Please print your *full name* and sign it if you want to keep your union. (We have also [posted a pdf of the cards](#) online, but the law requires that we have the original signed cards on paper.)

If you have already sent in your cards, thank you, and please share your cards with a colleague. (The lawyers want us to get as many cards as possible.)

**Important. Signing and returning the two Statement of Interest cards does not obligate you to join the union; it only shows PERC that you want the election so that you can be represented by the union.**

## **Find Out What This is All About: Come to the Q&A on Friday**

For more information about this campaign, and about other major issues facing faculty and professionals arising from recent legislation (especially academic freedom and post tenure review), come to the **Q&A Session on Friday, January 26, starting at 1:00 pm in the Marshall Student Center Chamber Room, MSC 4200, on USF Tampa.**

The Q&A will follow the chapter meeting, which starts at 12 noon, and to which all employees in the bargaining unit - union members and nonmembers alike - are invited. It will be hybrid, and for a Zoom invitation, contact [the Chapter Secretary](#).

We will also talk about major issues like academic freedom, post tenure review, salaries, and issues attendees want to talk about.

### **How Can You Help?**

**Send in your cards! And...**

- **If you are not a member, [join today](#).** We are petitioning for this election because the elections are waived only if 60% of the employees a union represents are members, and right now only 30% are members. In addition, the more members a union has, the more volunteers and other resources the union has to bargain and enforce the contract.
- **If you are a member, the union is **organizing a blitz for this coming week**.** UFF organizers from across the state will be visiting USF to support this action. Please sign up to volunteer using the link below (and feel free to share the link with your dept and networks). You'll be paired with an experienced UFF organizer during your shift. It's important for faculty to be involved, as colleague-to-colleague organizing is vital to our success. Here is [the link to sign up](#).

**NOTE:** thanks to this law, we have to go through this certification red tape *every year* until we reach 60%.

### **Meanwhile, the Chapter Election**

Amidst all this sturm und drang, the USF Chapter is holding its annual election; the Chapter is a democracy, and that means elections. For details, see [the Biweekly Special calling for nominations](#); remember, all UFF members are eligible to - and invited to - run and to vote. **But only UFF members can run and vote, so [join today](#).**

**Note to members:** the statewide UFF will also be conducting its election, so watch your mail.

**NOTE:** The USF-UFF Chapter website is <http://www.uff.ourusf.org>, and our e-mail address is [uff@ourusf.org](mailto:uff@ourusf.org).

About this broadcast: This Newsletter was broadcast from Constant Contact, and is intended for all USF faculty and professionals in the UFF USF Bargaining Unit.

The UFF USF Biweekly is a newsletter whose regular issues are sent out every other week to employees on the UFF USF Bargaining Unit, to people who have requested guest subscriptions, and the the USFTALK listserv. If you would like a guest subscription, contact [the Chapter Secretary](#). Past issues are posted on [the newsletter archive](#).

If you do not want to any further communications from the UFF Biweekly, you can unsubscribe below. If you do not receive the Biweekly but want a subscription, contact [the Chapter Secretary](#).

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