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Certification Update

The USF Administration (representing the USF Board of Trustees) is *required by law* to bargain and abide by contracts negotiated with the United Faculty of Florida *because the union is "certified"*. And the union must be recertified annually.

Last year, [a new law](#) was passed requiring that a public employees' union have at least 60% of the employees that it represents as *dues-paying* members for automatic recertification; any union with less than that must *petition for recertification*.

As of April, less than 60% of the employees that the UFF USF Chapter represents were dues-paying members. This law has been challenged by UFF, but meanwhile the Chapter petitioned for recertification. (That's what those Showing of Interest cards were about.) We have just heard from the Public Employees Relations Commission that our petition was "sufficient".

The next step is a *recertification election*. Sometime soon, the Commission will send ballot packets to all employees in the Bargaining Unit - UFF USF members and non-members alike - asking if employees want UFF to continue to represent them. *UFF must win the election to be recertified*.

We will keep you posted on developments from the Commission.

Meanwhile, speaking of membership, **the UFF USF Membership Committee will meet tomorrow, Thursday, at 9 am, on USF Tampa, in EDU161**. Anyone interested in joining the campaign to get membership above 60% so we don't have to go through this next year is invited to come.

The membership committee will be contacting employees to increase our membership and thus strengthen our chapter's ability to represent YOU.

Coming this Saturday...



On May 11, mail carriers will pick up non-perishables for the annual food drive. For more information, see the [Stamp Out Hunger](#) page posted by the National Association of Letter Carriers

About the Student Protests

The situation in Gaza has inspired student protests across the country - [and even abroad](#) - eliciting a range of administrative responses. For example:

- At [Columbia](#) and [Emory](#), the administrations called in the police to remove students by force.
- At [Northwestern](#) and [Rutgers](#), the administrations talked with students and worked out compromises.

It is a sign of the times that the presidents of Northwestern and Rutgers [have been summoned](#) by the U.S. House Education and the Workforce Committee to explain.

Meanwhile, at USF, [police deployed tear gas and arrested ten people](#).

On Monday, May 6, the UFF (statewide) Steering Committee sent the following statement to all UFF members:

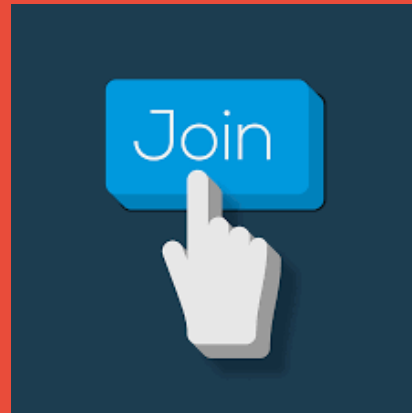
The UFF Steering Committee has observed with grave concern the repression of student protest on campuses throughout the country and here in Florida, as reported in the ACLU of Florida's [recent statement](#). So, we have endorsed the AAUP statement, "[In Defense of the Right to Free Speech and Peaceful Protest on University Campuses](#)". UFF joins with other unions and AAUP chapters in calling on institutional leaders in Florida and across the country to "reinstate student organizations shut down in recent months for political activity, to drop charges against peaceful protesters, to observe due process in disciplinary actions, to keep armed law enforcement off campuses, and to

uphold fundamental freedoms for students and faculty”.

Bargaining Starts Next Week

The UFF USF Bargaining Team (representing YOU) and the USF Administration Team (representing the USF Board of Trustees) will meet this **Friday, May 10, at 2 pm, on USF Tampa in the Patel Center, in room CGS 140.**

The meeting is open to the public and everyone is invited; **we especially would like people to come in person to show the Administration and the Board how seriously USF faculty and professionals take the contract.** But if you cannot join, it will be streamed, and here is [the Zoom invitation](#).



Union Membership

If you are not a union member, please **join today** (the form connects automatically to the eDues form, so you will want to have your banking information or checkbook information handy). We are stronger standing together in solidarity.

Remember

NOTE: The USF-UFF Chapter website is <http://www.uff.ourusf.org>, and our e-mail address is 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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