



11 July 2024

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## Bargaining Artificial Intelligence

On June 28, the bargaining team for the USF Board of Trustees presented [their first proposals](#), and as the subsequent [Letter from the union's bargaining team](#) observed, the proposals were unreasonable. The union's team is formulating a response, and hopefully, the BOT team will be more serious at the next bargaining session.

(The Bargaining Team is posting announcements and materials on the [UFF USF Bargaining Page](#).)

Meanwhile, on June 28, the union team also made [a proposal](#) that the union and the Administration work together on a common priority: what to do about (generative) artificial intelligence. The proposal was introduced by [Remarks](#) on the scale of the challenge posed by artificial intelligence. But in a manner reminiscent of [the conclusion](#) of Raiders of the Lost Ark, the BOT team did not condescend to present a counterproposal.

But we are not going to leave it at that.

- **It's Coming Right At Us** . The National Education Association has just produced a policy statement on (generative) artificial intelligence in the classroom.

Ultimately, this is just another newfangled kind of software, and there is only one way to learn how to use software...

- **Try it Out.** The only way to become skilled at GenAI is practice, practice, practice.

**UFF USF will hold a workshop on (generative artificial intelligence), date / time / location TBD. Stay tuned.**

Returning to more familiar matters, we need to educate legislators and other politicians. **UFF USF will hold a training session on government relations, date / time / location TBD. Stay tuned.**

**Come to the baseball game on July 30, [the Rays versus the](#)**

[Miami Marlins](#). UFF members and family are welcome (so [join today!](#)). Contact [Cecil Greek](#) for tickets.

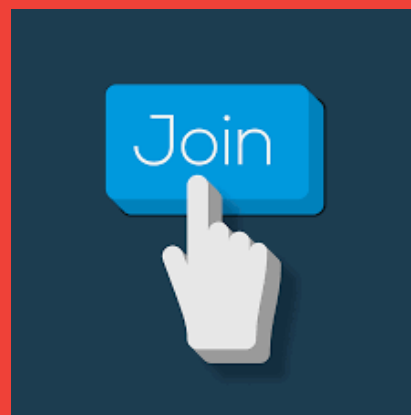
**Chapter Meeting Tomorrow Friday at noon on USF Tampa in EDU 161.** The USF Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida will meet tomorrow, Friday, July 12th, at 12 pm, on USF Tampa in EDU 161 and on Zoom. On the agenda: artificial intelligence, government relations, bargaining, and more. And here are the minutes from the [June 14](#) and [June 28](#) meetings..

**All UFF USF employees - members and non-members alike - are invited to attend the chapter meeting and the bargaining session.** But to Zoom in to the chapter meeting you must have an invitation: contact [the Chapter Secretary](#) to get one. Meetings and events are [posted on the Events Calendar](#) of the [UFF USF Website](#). Come and check us out.

**USF Library offers online workshops on AI.** On July 18 at 11 am there will be a workshop on MicroSoft CoPilot: [Intro to AI-Powered Research Assistants](#). Space is limited, so interested faculty should sign up asap. For more information about AI resources at USF, including an online workshop, check out the [Unlock the Power of GENAI page](#).

**And now a reminder: if you have [missed two federal elections](#), you may have been purged from the voter rolls. And if voting by mail, you must [renew your vote by mail request](#) for each federal election.**

**Yes, it's an Election Year!** The primary election is on **August 20**. For "safe" legislative districts, this election determines who will be the next representative for that district. In addition, on the ballot there are typically races for local offices - officers and representatives who oversee schools, roads, courts, stuff that affects our daily lives. **The deadline to register to vote is July 22.** If you are eligible to vote, we strongly encourage you to do so. Check the [Florida Division of Elections](#) today!



**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.

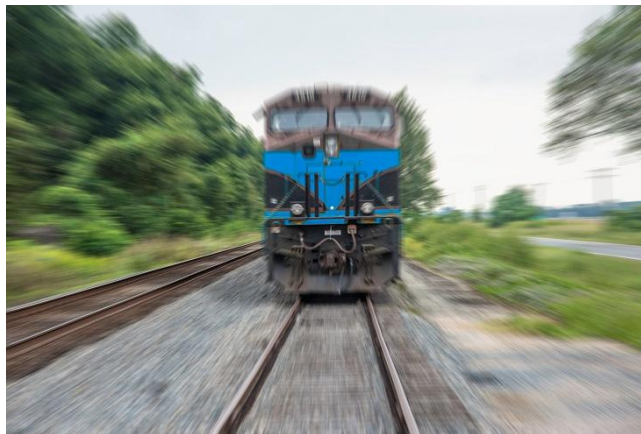
If you have difficulties with the eDues form, see the [instructions](#).

Healthcare Issues Representative Employment Process Agreement Working Hours Employer Overtime  
Salaries Grievance Employment Protection Law COLLECTIVE BARGAINING Negotiation Productive Terms Rules Union Wages Safety  
Limits Work Contract Participated Salary Establish Cost

## Bargaining the Next Contract

Your UFF-USF Bargaining Committee met with USF-BOT bargaining representatives to begin negotiations for the successor agreement to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement 2021-2024.

The Bargaining Committee wants your ideas, comments, suggestions, and desiderata from the employees that the union represents. Please send thoughts on bargaining to [the Bargaining Committee](#).



## It's Coming Right At Us

The National Education Association is one of our national affiliates, and its Representative Assembly meets annually to hear reports and set policy. This year, **the Assembly heard a [Report of the NEA Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in Education](#) and adopted a **Policy Statement On the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Education****. The Statement has not been posted yet, but here is [the press release](#). **Here are some highlights.**

"...the seismic potential of this technology..." led the Task Force "...to believe that, like the internet, access to safe and effective AI-enhanced technology should be viewed much like a modern-day utility and made available (equitably) to every student..." [italics added, but the Task Force dwelled

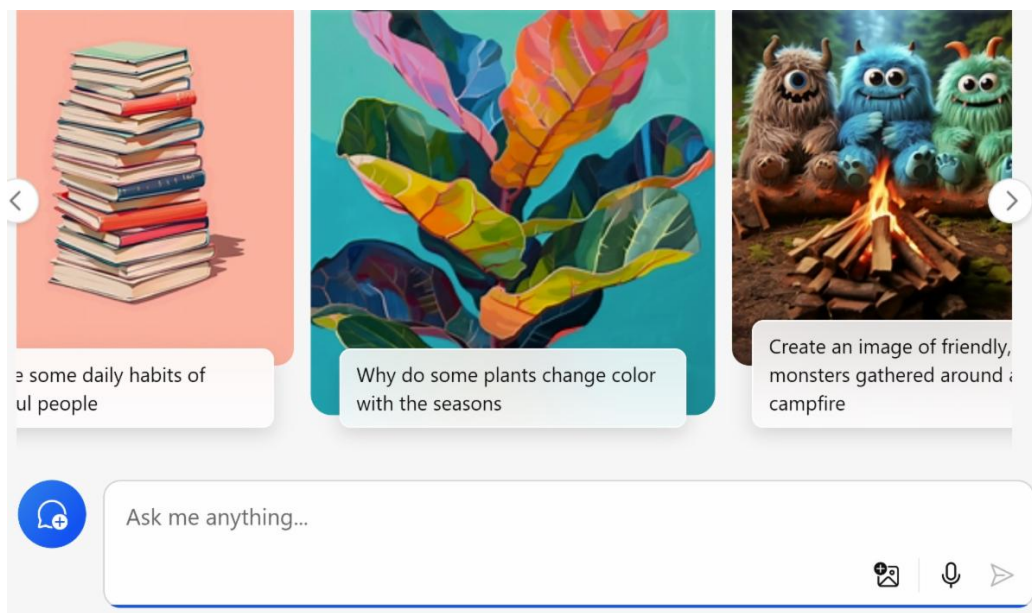
a lot on that "every"]. The Task Force heard from NEA members who had enriched their classes with AI while hearing from other members disturbed by AI's misbehavior.

The Report made five points:

1. Students and educators must remain at the center of education
2. Evidence-based AI technology must enhance the educational experience
3. Ethical development/use of AI technology and strong data protection practices [are necessary]
4. Equitable access to and use of AI tools is ensured
5. Ongoing education with and about AI: AI literacy and agency [is necessary]

The Statement expanded on each of the five points and then, observing that, "[t]he expansive role that artificial intelligence plays in our education systems continues to grow, and it will impact us all in ways that we have yet to fully understand." And the Statement said that, "NEA and its state and local affiliates should call for and actively engage in coalitions, research, commissions, and committees studying and making recommendations about AI adoption, effectiveness, and safety in education."

**To discuss what this means for USF faculty, come to the UFF USF Social Workshop on GenAI, date / time / location TBD. Bring your questions and comments.**



## Try it out

GenAI is not at all like the computer programs that emerged in the 1950s and now run much of the world. Those programs are

very literal-minded and do *exactly* what you tell them to do - provided your instructions were within their highly artificial format. The GenAI programs are quite different.

Like the old interactive programs, you put an instruction in the blank. For example, in CoPilot's interface (screenshot above), you type in an instruction on the line where it says, "Ask me anything." And CoPilot does mean *anything*: you can write an instruction in the blank and CoPilot will respond with ... hopefully something resembling what you asked for.

The major GenAI programs are all like that: they have been "trained" on a vast amount of material and they are designed to take an instruction (called a *prompt*) and produce a response that the user will accept.

And there's the rub. GenAI programs are prone to all sorts of misbehaviors, and getting them to produce the text response that you want (or, far more challenging, the image that you want) is a major challenge. The result is *prompt engineering*, i.e., how to compose a prompt that will get the GenAI program to produce what you want.

So here's one way GenAI is similar to the old school literal-minded programs: the only way to learn how to compose successful instructions is to spend a lot of time composing instructions.

USF is encouraging faculty and students to try three GenAI programs, which are described on USF's [Resources for Generative Artificial Intelligence](#):

- [ChatGPT 4o](#) ("o" is for "omni") is OpenAI's latest flagship.
- [CoPilot](#) comes with an [overview](#).
- [Gemini](#) is Google's oar in the GAI waters.

These are the three GenAI programs introduced in USF's [Generative AI Workshop](#), an online course via Canvas.

There are several caveats, and one has to do with surveillance. The big commercial GenAI programs use content provided by users to train their programs; *content provided to these programs are not confidential*. USF says that they have arranged for content provided to those three programs by USF users (presumably when using USF computers) will not be used for training purposes, but they still strongly recommend against giving these three programs confidential information. Translation: don't use GenAI to grade papers.

**For some practice with these programs, come to the UFF USF Social Workshop on GenAI, date / time / location TBD. Bring your laptops.**



## **Follow us on Social Media &&& *Join us on Social Media***

We have a Facebook group: see [United Faculty of Florida at USF](#). This page is a place where UFF members can exchange thoughts and ideas. **The page is "public", but only dues-paying UFF members are eligible to post items on the page. If you are a UFF member, ask to join on the page, and the moderator will invite every UFF member that asks to join.** Non-members are welcome to look (but you need a Facebook account to do that). So check us out ... join the conversation.

- We have a blog: see [The USF Faculty Blog](#). This has news items as they come up.
- We are on Twitter (aka X), so follow us on Twitter / X via [@UffUsf](#).
- We are on Instagram, so check us out at Instagram [@usf\\_uff](#).
- We even have a You-Tube channel: [check out our videos](#).

**We are revamping our publicity machine, and if you are interested in social media, in membership, or in conversations with you colleagues across campus, *come join the campaign*. Contact [the Communications Committee chair](#).**

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### **USF United Support Fund for Food Pantries**

Many of our students are struggling during with food insecurity, and the USF Foundation is supporting the [USF Food Pantries](#) to help out. They are accepting non-perishable donations, but one can also make monetary donations for the pantries at all three campuses.

### **Details, Details**

he 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 members of the UFF USF Bargaining unit (USF faculty and professionals at most departments). A (usually identical) version will be broadcast to USF-News and USF-Talk from [mccolm@usf.edu](mailto:mccolm@usf.edu).

If you do not want to receive the UFF Biweekly, you can unsubscribe below or contacting [the Chapter Secretary](#). If you do not receive the Biweekly, but want to, contact [the Chapter Secretary](#).

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