



25 July 2024

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## Preparing for the Fall

Fall is coming; classes start in 32 days. The union will be bargaining a new contract, organizing information and training sessions, holding socials, and conducting business. All these meetings, events, and activities are [posted in the calendar](#) as we fix dates, times and locations.

- **Union Meetings, Events, and Activities.** At the moment, we have a bargaining session, a follow-up social, a discussion / workshop, and a picnic. More will come.

**Please come to the Bargaining Session, Friday, August 9, starting at 1:30 pm on USF Tampa in the Patel Center in CGS 140, and show your support for the union team as it bargains a successor contract. More below.** It would be most helpful if you came in person, but it will be streamed on Zoom, and [here is the link](#). **And on Saturday, August 10, at 12 noon, meet us at [Ferg's Sports Bar](#), 1320 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, to discuss the bargaining session.**

We post other stuff [on the calendar](#), too.

- **Faculty Governance.** The Faculty Senate hasn't posted next year's schedule, but it will soon.
- **Management Stuff.** For practical purposes, the Administration serves at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees, which is under the Board of Governors. Both boards meet on occasion, and we like to meet them.
- **Civics.** Yes, **it's an election year**, and we post important deadlines in the calendar. It's our way of encouraging everyone to exercise their rights.

To keep up to date, check out our [calendar](#).

*And we tend to put pressing announcements at the top. For example, the official purpose of the regular Biweekly is to*

*announce chapter meetings.*

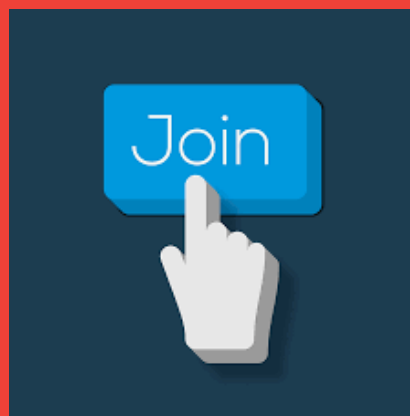
**Chapter Meeting Tomorrow Friday at noon. strictly online.** The USF Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida will meet tomorrow, Friday, July 26th, at 12 pm, online. On the agenda: artificial intelligence, government relations, bargaining, and more. And here are the [minutes from July 12 meeting](#).

**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.

*And some Biweeklies add another announcement or two that really need to go out.*

**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. **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.

## Membership Status

If you are going on a reduced-pay leave or sabbatical, or if you are retiring or resigning, please contact us so we can adjust your eDues accordingly: visit the [UFF Membership Policy webpage](#). In particular, if you are retiring, we encourage you to consider joining the UFF Retired chapter: here is [their webpage](#).



### 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](#).



## Union Meetings, Events and Activities

*Some events are fun, some are informative, some are business, and some are union governance.*

**Bargaining on August 9.** We are bargaining a successor to the [current contract](#). At least 90% of the work is preparation, but periodically the UFF USF team (representing YOU) and the USF Administration team (representing the USF Board of Trustees) meet and exchange proposals. Meetings are open to the public and we stream them via [Zoom](#); **we strongly encourage faculty to attend the bargaining sessions in person and support the UFF USF team.** The [next Bargaining Session](#)

is on Friday, August 9, at 1:30 pm, on USF Tampa in CGS 140. For more information on bargaining, see the [Collective Bargaining page](#).

**Follow-up Social at Ferg's on August 10 at 12 noon.**

Come to [Ferg's Sports Bar & Grill](#), 1320 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, to discuss bargaining and other issues.

**[Artificial Intelligence Discussion / Workshop August](#)**

**19.** What is artificial intelligence? How will it impact teaching, research, and service at USF? How can faculty get in the decision-making loop on AI at USF? And how can faculty try the stuff out? Union members are welcome to walk in, so come **join us - and bring your laptops**, for we will be practicing on three GAI programs. For more information, contact [the chapter secretary](#).

**Chapter Meetings this Fall starts on August 30.** The Chapter consists of all UFF members at USF, and the Chapter meets every other Friday at 12 noon to hear reports and make decisions. All UFF members are invited - **encouraged** - to come and participate. (All UFF members are entitled to bring motions to the floor and vote on motions.) The [last chapter meeting of the summer](#) is tomorrow, 12 noon, online (you can get a Zoom invitation from [the chapter secretary](#)). The first chapter meeting of the semester will be on Friday, August 30, online. After that, we will meet (hybrid) every other week at locations TBD. Watch the Biweekly for details.

**[Labor Day Picnic on September 2.](#)** The regional AFL-CIO (the parent of one of our national affiliates) holds a midday picnic every election year so that union families can bring their kids to a playground while their parents talk to local politicians running for election. The chapter will spring for tickets, so interested union members should contact [the chapter secretary](#) asap.

**Union Governance.** The union is a democracy, and democracy is hard work. That includes meetings of representatives. The USF Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida is part of the statewide [UFF](#), which represents faculty at eleven universities and eighteen colleges, as well as graduate students at four universities. Its legislative body is the Senate, which meets twice annually, the next time is in Orlando on October 19 - 20. And the UFF itself is a "local" of the [Florida Education Association](#), which represents K-20 teachers across the state. It's Delegate Assembly meets in Orlando on September 20 & 21. **The Biweekly typically reports on both these meetings, so**

## Faculty Governance

Faculty do a lot of the administration and decision-making at USF. Technically, faculty merely advise the USF Administration - unlike the union, which has legal rights - but the Administration has limited resources for micromanagement. And it is the faculty who have the expertise.

That makes *shared faculty governance* a practical necessity as well as a contractual mandate (see [Section 5.4](#)).

Shared faculty governance extends from departmental committees through college bodies up to [the Faculty Senate](#). The Senate ([which has posted its schedule for the 2024 - 2025 academic year](#)) will meet online from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm on Sept. 25, Oct. 23, and Nov. 30. And the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet hybrid from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm online on Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, and Nov. 6. These meetings are open to the public; for informations and Teams invitations, contact [the Faculty Senate staff](#).

## Management Stuff

**The Board of Trustees.** The University of South Florida is overseen by a [Board of Trustees](#), which consists of the president of the Faculty Senate, the president of the Student Government, six people appointed by the governor, and five appointed by the Board of Governors. They work through [five committees](#), which will meet virtually from 9 am - 12 pm on August 20 & 27 and November 19 & 25. The board itself will meet in person from 9:30 pm - 12:30 pm on September 10 and December 10 at locations TBD. **Meeting information is [posted online](#), and we encourage all faculty to join USF UFF President Steve Lang at the board meetings on September 10 & December 10 and join him for lunch afterwards.**

**The Board of Governors.** The eleven universities and New College are overseen by a [Board of Governors](#), which has a faculty representative, a student representative, the [Commissioner of Education](#), and fourteen people appointed by the governor. *This board is the body that has issued mandates to the universities demanding that they follow dubious laws on DEI, curriculum, arbitration, and tenure.* **The next meeting of the Board of Governors is September 18 & 19 on USF Tampa in the MSC Ballroom, and we will ask USF faculty to help us educate the Board, so stay tuned.** (The Board's committees will also meet at the University of West Florida on October 16

and then the full Board will meet at Florida Atlantic University on October 29 - 30.)



## Democracy: Use it or Lose it

The [Calendar](#) also announces important dates for the upcoming elections (for more dates, [deadlines](#), and other election information, see the [Division of Elections](#)).

**The Primary.** We are past the deadline to register to vote in the August 20 primary, and the deadline to request a mail ballot is August 8. Mandatory early voting is August 10 - 17 (some counties may have extended times) and election day is August 20.

**The General Election.** The deadline to [register to vote](#) in the November 5 general election is October 7 and the deadline to request a mail ballot is October 24. Mandatory early voting is October 26 - November 2 (some counties may have extended times) and the election day is November 5.

**Check your status.** To check if your voter registration (and, if appropriate, mail ballot request) is in order, check the [Status Lookup page](#).



Follow us on Social Media

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## ***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**

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 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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