

PRESS RELEASE

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UFF Condemns Action of State College of Florida Board of Trustees

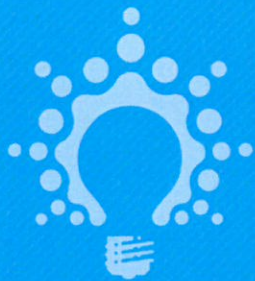
Just this week, the trustees of the State College of Florida (SCF) voted 7-1 to end the longstanding continuing contract system for future SCF faculty. The continuing contract system at our colleges in Florida is their form of tenure as allowed under Rule 6A-14.0411, FAC, Employment Contracts for Full-Time Faculty.

“This is an outright attack on academic freedom in our higher education system in Florida”, stated Jennifer Proffitt, President of the United Faculty of Florida. “We condemn this action and the impact it will have on the future of full-time faculty at the State College of Florida in Manatee County and their ability to educate and engage students free from the undue influence of the political or ideological views of administrators, donors, and others.”

Proffitt added, “UFF represents more than 20,000 faculty at eleven state universities and nine colleges in Florida. Unfortunately, the faculty at SCF were not organized and have no collective bargaining agreement for support. UFF knows we cannot count on politicians and administrators to protect academic freedom and forms of tenure allowed by Florida law and rule, but we can represent our members in the maintenance of these long cherished principles of academia.”

The action to end continuing contracts passed over the objections of the SCF vice president of academic affairs who believes the action will result in lowering the quality of applicants for faculty positions and place SCF at a competitive disadvantage with other state colleges.

**The Higher Education Affiliate of Florida Education Association, National Education Association,
American Federation of Teachers, and AFL-CIO**



Did You Know?

UCF's tenure system is protected by our Collective Bargaining Agreement.

BOT-UFF Collective Bargaining Agreement Article 15

Our UFF union protects the system of tenure at UCF by ensuring it's in our Collective Bargaining Agreement. UCF and UFF mutually agreed to include tenure in the CBA because tenure is important for maintaining academic freedom and retaining excellent faculty.

15.1 Eligibility. Employees with the rank of Associate Professor and Professor shall be eligible for tenure. Tenure shall be in a department/unit or other appropriate administrative unit.

But the future of tenure in Florida is in doubt. The case of State College of Florida puts the issue in stark relief. There, in Manatee County, on September 22nd of this year, the Board of Trustees decided to end tenure at the school. Future full-time professors will now work on annual contracts.

State College of Florida did not have a faculty union and had no Collective Bargaining Agreement. Therefore, there was nothing to stop the Board of Trustees from unilaterally ending the tenure system at their college. Without a union and without a contract, that same result can happen at UCF.

What can you do?

To prevent another State College of Florida from happening here, faculty need to stick together, build our union, and defend academic freedom. Don't count on political appointees and administrators to protect tenure for you. Build the power of your profession. Become an active member of UFF today!

To protect and maintain the tenure system that ensures faculty some degree of job security and academic freedom, you can become an active member of UFF by joining our bargaining team, legislative committee, or membership team.

United Faculty of Florida

UFF-UCF has begun our fall 2015 membership challenge. We are asking each current UFF member to sign up one new member. Please contact Yan (yrf@me.com) to learn more about this challenge.

uffucf.org