

September 16, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

I'm honored to be elected as your new United Faculty President.

Together we can make lasting changes that will benefit all of us. Thank you for your commitment and participation in strengthening our United Faculty. I will work hard to make changes that help faculty feel empowered, heard, informed, and united, and I have outlined my plans and preliminary actions so that we can move forward with a clear vision for our success.

My term in office will be dedicated to addressing four specific issues:

1. On-schedule raises that always include COLA. Our retirement income in STRS is negatively impacted by off-salary schedule raises, and our ability to recruit and retain high quality faculty is threatened because of our sinking position on the comparability schedules.
2. District paid dependent health coverage. Dependent health coverage is no longer a "perk" as it was seen years ago. It has become a standard across the board, especially in the field of education.
3. Lecture/lab equality. Our District does not receive reduced funding for lab classes, and faculty should not receive reduced pay for teaching a class called "lab" rather than "lecture."
4. Contract protection. Our contract is our negotiated working rights and conditions. Our contract is not created by management and cannot be used arbitrarily against us. It is for our protection and defines our working rights, working conditions, and the rights of our union.

In the coming weeks, we will be creating a new UF website that is easily accessible and contains necessary, ongoing updated information.

Per Contract article 3.1.2, I have requested from the District an "all faculty" email address in order to have communications that are consistently sent to all three campuses at the same time.

Per Contract Article 1.3.5.2, I have requested that all members receive a hard copy of the current contract as quickly as possible. Any future ratifications to the contract can be sent out as individual items.

As we move forward, I will be sending regular updates to keep everyone informed. Please feel free to email me at cdiepuf@gmail.com.

I look forward to working with everyone in creating strong unity across our three campuses for our shared purpose.

If any of your colleagues did not receive this email, please forward it to them. Once we get the District all-faculty email address, we won't have an issue reaching everyone.

Sincerely,

Christie

Christie Diep
United Faculty President