

UFF-LSSC

United Faculty of Florida Lake-Sumter State College

United Faculty of Florida – Lake-Sumter State College Chapter
Full Member Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2021

A. Update on Dr. David Walton

Norton gave an update with Dr. Walton adding information:

Faculty, students, and the new UFF President, Andrew Gothard, spoke at the last board meeting about the illegal termination. Members from across the state have sent the board members emails decrying the action. The news has reported on the situation with favorable articles being published on Inside Higher Ed and the Orlando Sentinel – links are on the website.

The Administrative Hearing on David Walton’s unjust termination will be held on Thursday, September 9 at the South Lake campus beginning at 9:00. Witnesses including Beth Terranova, Karen Hogans, Thom Kieft, Michael Vitale, Jeremy Norton, and David himself will testify with the union and college lawyers asking questions. Board member Bret Jones will preside. The hearing is scheduled to last into the afternoon and will be open for an audience. Attend if you can. The process will continue for at least a few weeks after the hearing as the full District Board of Trustees will decide whether to overturn Dr. Sidor’s action.

B. Bargaining Update

The last bargaining meeting in July was relatively unproductive, MOUs were discussed on the QEP positions and intellectual property was discussed. No tentative agreements were reached. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23 at 2:00. We are told that Workload will, finally, be offered. The new bargaining team will consist of Jeremy Norton, Dr. Debby Hicks, Dr. Peter Olen, Nora Rackley, and Brandy Ziesemer.

C. New Officers

Since the election last spring, there has been one resignation, Daniel Weber, and one termination, Dr. David Walton. Per the unit’s bylaws, these positions need to be filled to complete the terms. Nominations were opened with only two members accepting, Brandy Ziesemer for Secretary and Dr. Michele Rudden for Treasurer. Ziesemer and Rudden were subsequently approved by acclamation. Their term begins immediately. They join Jeremy Norton, President, and Dr. Peter Olen, Vice President on the Executive Council. Senators are Dr. Debby Hicks and Brandy Ziesemer.

D. Doral College agreement

A public records request was made to investigate any agreement the college president has made with Doral College – a private, unaccredited south Florida school run by the Academica charter school company. The signed agreement was shown with discussion on the more disturbing aspects such as faculty sharing and students being part of both institutions. The union and Faculty Senate will follow up on these developments

E. Other Business

The website needs a bit of work. Send in ideas or share talent.

Members are encouraged to reach out to the new faculty (math and nursing) to discuss possible membership

Share any concerns you are having with a member of the executive council