



January 2023

Dear UFF Member,

It's election season once again for United Faculty of Florida! Please nominate members you would like to represent you in various positions now open for nominations. Please take this process seriously. You may want to consult the individuals you nominate. Each nominee will be contacted to affirm they are willing to serve. We look forward to your nominations. All you have to do is email us the names and positions by February 6th.

On behalf of your 2023 Elections and Credentials Committee,

Chair Debby Hicks (UFF-Retired) & Jonathan Fink (UFF-University of West Florida)

Kristen Amaya (UFF-Florida State University-Graduate Assistants United)

Elizabeth Key-Raimer (Faculty United Service Association/UFF-Hillsborough Community College)

Eugene Matthews (UFF-Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University)

Questions for the Elections and Credentials Committee and to submit official nominations: E-Mail [UFF Elections@floridaea.org](mailto:UFF_Elections@floridaea.org).

Information about the election (candidate statements, balloting timeline, etc.) will be posted on our website as it becomes available: <https://myuff.org/elections/>.



Elections and Credentials Committee Call for Nominations for 2023-2025 UFF Elections

The Elections and Credentials Committee of United Faculty of Florida is seeking nominations for the statewide offices for the UFF Steering Committee and delegates to our national governing bodies. These positions are two-year terms, with all positions to commence on July 1, 2023 and ending on June 31st, 2025. Any member may nominate themselves or any active memberⁱ for these offices. Nominations must be received by email by the end of the day on **Monday February 6, 2023** to [UFF Elections@floridaea.org](mailto:UFF_Elections@floridaea.org). Include in your nomination email: your name and chapter, as well as the name(s) and position(s) for each nomination you are making.

Nominations are open for the UFF Steering Committee:

President
First Vice-President (FVP)
Vice President of the State University System Faculty Bargaining Council (VP-SUS BC)
Vice President of the College Bargaining Council (VP-SUS-CBC)
Vice President of the Graduate Assistants United Bargaining Council (VP-GAU BC)
Vice President of the Independent College Bargaining Council (VP-IC BC)
Chair of the Government Relations Committee
Chair of the Diversity and Leadership Committeeⁱⁱ
Chair of the Membership Committee
Three (3) UFF Delegate(s) to the Florida Education Association (FEA) Governance Board

Members elected to be on UFF's Steering Committee are expected to fulfill the leadership role to which they are elected and attend monthly Steering Committee meetings to carry out business between the UFF Senate meetings (usually Senate meets in September and February). Travel funds for delegates attending Steering Committee will be covered by UFF per travel policy and approved annual budget set by UFF Senate.

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Nominations are open for UFF delegates to the National Education Association:

Thirty-four (34) UFF delegates to the NEA Representative Assemblyⁱⁱⁱ

*Members elected to be UFF's delegates to the National Education Association Representative Assembly (NEA RA) are expected to attend the **NEA RA in 2023 (Orlando, July 2-6)** and in **2024 (Philadelphia, PA, July 3-7, 2024)**. Travel funds for delegates attending national affiliates' governing convenings will be covered by UFF per travel policy and approved annual budget set by UFF Senate.*

Nominations are open for UFF delegates to the American Federation of Teachers:

Eighty-six (86) UFF delegates to the AFT National Convention^{iv}
(UFF has 1 delegate for every 100 members).

*Members elected to be UFF's delegates to the American Federation of Teachers are expected to attend the **AFT Biennial Convention in Houston, TX from July 22-25, 2024**. Travel funds for delegates attending national affiliates' governing convenings will be covered by UFF per travel policy and approved annual budget set by UFF Senate.*

To submit nominations or for questions: E-Mail [UFF Elections@floridaea.org](mailto:UFF_Elections@floridaea.org).

ⁱ From UFF Constitution and Bylaws:

<https://myuff.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/UFF-Constitution-and-Bylaws-Jan-2022-Final.pdf>

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP **Section 1.** Faculty, professional employees, employed graduate students, and staff in the public and private colleges and universities of the State of Florida, who are members of a UFF bargaining unit, shall be eligible for active membership in UFF except as otherwise provided in this Constitution and Bylaws. The right to vote and to hold elected office shall be limited to active members except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws. **Section 4.** At-large membership shall be open to any person who is employed in higher education in Florida but who is not a member of a UFF collective bargaining unit. At-large members shall be eligible for all the benefits of membership, excluding holding elected office. **Section 5.** Members who retire and who wish to retain their affiliation shall be eligible for retiree membership. Retiree members shall be eligible for all the benefits of membership, excluding holding elected office.

ⁱⁱ This committee is proposing changing the name to the Leadership, Equity, Inclusion & Diversity committee (LEID). It is informally called LEID, but the name in the Constitution and By-Laws of UFF remains Diversity & Leadership.

ⁱⁱⁱ **About the NEA:** The National Education Association (NEA), the nation's largest professional employee organization, is committed to advancing the cause of public education. NEA's 3 million members work at every level of education—from pre-school to university graduate programs. NEA has affiliate organizations in every state and in more than 14,000 communities across the United States. **About the NEA RA:** The Representative Assembly adopts the strategic plan and budget, resolutions, the Legislative Program, and other policies of the National Education Association. Delegates vote on proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and elect the executive officers, Executive Committee members, and at-large members of the NEA Board of Directors. The RA consists of approximately 6,000 educator delegates representing state and local affiliates, student members, retired members, and other segments of the united education profession. The RA is the largest democratic deliberative assembly in the world and adheres to Roberts Rules of Order. **According to the NEA Bylaws, Section 3-1 (g):** It is the policy of the Association to achieve ethnic-minority delegate representation at least equal to the proportion of identified ethnic-minority populations within the state. Based on Florida's demographics, 47% of delegates must be ethnic minority. The current ethnic-minority categories available to delegates are: Hispanic, Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Asian.

^{iv} **About the AFT:** The American Federation of Teachers, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, was founded in 1916 and today represents 1.7 million members in more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide. Five divisions within the AFT represent the broad spectrum of the AFT's membership: pre-K through 12th-grade teachers; paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel; higher education faculty and professional staff; federal, state and local government employees; and nurses and other healthcare professionals. In addition, the AFT represents approximately 80,000 early childhood educators and nearly 250,000 retiree members. **About the AFT Biennial Convention:** About 3,000 delegates debate and vote on resolutions and elect national officers.