



UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA

FALL 2022 RECAP NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 6, 2023



Pictured: University of Florida students protesting Sen. Ben Sasse as the only candidate for university president.

UF Students Protest Ben Sasse

In October, the University of Florida announced Sen. Ben Sasse from Nebraska as the sole candidate for university president. Local chapter leaders at UFF-UF and the UF-GAU sprang into action by organizing protests, making statements to the press, and publicly pushing back against the lack of transparency and accountability in the search process.

In addition, UFF sent out a [**national press release**](#) and a [**public records request**](#) demanding information about the search process, while UFF-UF [**passed a resolution**](#) urging a vote of "no confidence" from the faculty senate. Both the UF Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association followed up by passing votes of "no confidence" in the presidential search process.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Protests at UF

UFF Senate

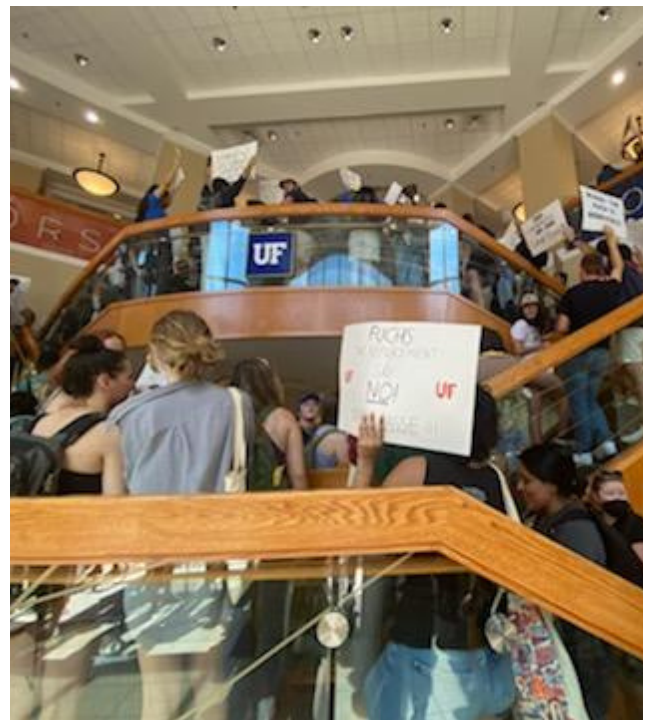
FEA Delegate Assembly

UFF-PAC

UFF Legal Update

Press Coverage

Events and Opportunities



Pictured: UF student and faculty protestors filling the building where Sen. Ben Sasse was speaking in October.

UFF September Senate Session

On September 17th - 18th, 2022, the UFF Senate met for its first in-person session since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was held at the Hilton Doubletree at the Entrance to Universal Studios, with over 150 Senators in attendance.



Pictured (left to right): (back) Martin Balinsky, Caitlin Gille, Ted Allman, Candi Churchill, Andrew Gothard; (front) Lauren Byers, Shenel Ransey, Adela Ghadimi, Allison Clarke, Emily McCann, Crista Cruz, Cami Acceus, Valerie Wilk, Marshall Ogletree

During this session, Senators voted to approve the 2022 -2023 UFF annual budget, confirm standing committee chairs and members, elect Bargaining Council Vice Presidents, and pass resolutions that direct the interests and resources of our union throughout the coming year. Leaders also participated in strategy sessions and trainings about the 2022 General Election, the 2023 Florida Legislative Session, student loan debt relief, bargaining impasse, and more.

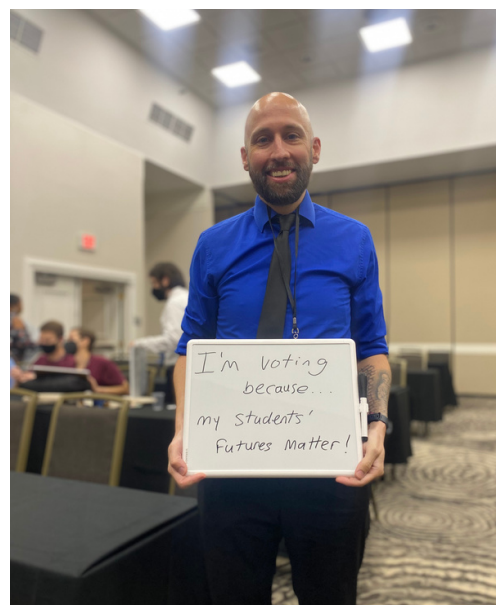


Pictured: The UFF Senate meeting of the Steering Committee and Council of Presidents.

During Sunday's floor session, Senators approved the final draft of UFF's Vision, Mission, and Values, as well as two business items covering inclusive modes of address and support for academic freedom organizing efforts. You can read all of these items, as well as the 2024 Senate session dates, [here](#).



Pictured: UFF Senators considering a motion on the floor to support academic freedom organizing.



Pictured: Eric Fiske (FUSA) participating in a GOTV action at Senate

FEA Delegate Assembly

The Florida Education Association (FEA) held its annual Delegate Assembly October 13th - 15th, 2022 in Orlando, FL. As our state affiliate, FEA has consistently taken action to support higher education policies and priorities, and this year was no different. Working together, UFF's delegation of over 30 leaders from across the state proposed two resolutions to protect academic freedom and return transparency to college and university presidential searches. Both resolutions passed with unanimous support. **[You can read these resolutions here.](#)**

If you'd like become a UFF delegate to the FEA Delegate Assembly, nominate yourself for this role during your upcoming chapter elections!



Pictured: UFF's delegates to the FEA Delegate Assembly, composed of members and leaders from all over Florida.

UFF-PAC

For over twenty years, UFF's Political Action Committee has donated funds to support the election campaigns of political leaders who will support the interests of higher education, regardless of political party. This election season was no different. In 2022, the UFF-PAC donated \$17, 750.00 to 23 candidates, **[which you can find here](#)** or on the Florida Division of Elections website. Out of this list, 17 of our endorsed candidates won their elections, while only 6 lost.

The UFF-PAC chair is the UFF President, currently Andrew Gothard, and the vice-chair is the UFF Government Relations Committee Chair, currently Nicole Morse of FAU. The new PAC Treasurer is Kelly Atkins of St Leo University. All PAC donations are proposed by these PAC officers, and final decisions are voted upon by the UFF PAC Board of Directors, which is comprised by the members of the UFF Steering Committee.

This year was incredibly successful year for PAC donations due to recurring contributions from members around the state and UFF's **["\\$10 to Win Campaign"](#)**. If you would like to make one-time or recurring donations to the UFF-PAC, to be used in relation to the 2024 election cycle, you can do so **[on the UFF website](#)**.

During election season, UFF members can make recommendations for endorsements by contacting the UFF office at **uff@floridaaea.org**.

UFF Legal Update

In October, both UFF and the State of Florida filed a **Motion for Summary Judgment** in our ongoing litigation to strike down the "Viewpoint Discrimination" law, otherwise known as HB 233. Unfortunately, Judge Walker ruled against our motion, but he also ruled against the State's motion. This means that UFF and the State will be going head-to-head in court during the week of January 9th, 2023, in Tallahassee.

Another important ruling in December codified UFF's right to protect communications between our leaders and members from State discovery. This ruling not only limits the State's ability to intimidate or retaliate against union members for our organizing and legal activities, but it also sets important precedent for future civil action UFF and other unions may take against the State. **Members can read that ruling by Judge Walker here.**

In further legal news, there are three separate lawsuits against Florida's Stop WOKE Act, otherwise known as HB 7. Two of these suits feature UFF leaders and members, including one joint suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF). In November, Judge Walker placed an injunction on HB 7's enforcement at Florida's colleges and universities in a 139 page ruling that begins with a quote from George Orwell. UFF encourages all members of the higher education community **to read this ruling**, as it represents an important step toward protecting college and university classrooms from undue political influence and attacks on First Amendment freedoms.

UFF Press Coverage and Releases

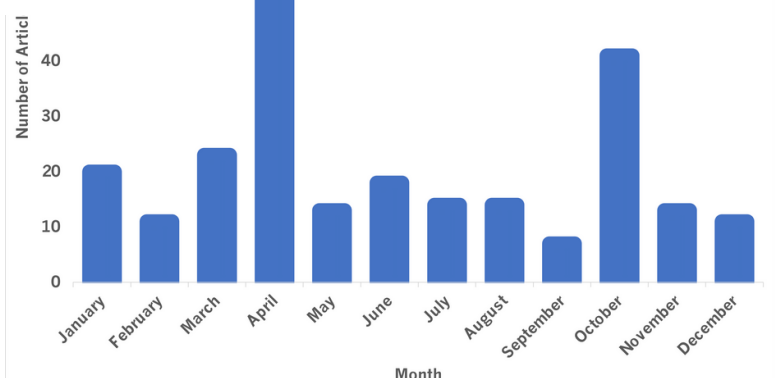
UFF has been in the news! Over the past year, there has been substantial press coverage of UFF. In 2022, nearly 250 articles have mentioned UFF in local, national and international news outlets.

	international	local	national	student newspaper	website	Grand Total
Accreditation		9	3			12
COVID		5		2		7
General Higher Ed		10	7			17
Local Issues		17	4	12		33
Politics		8	2			10
Post-tenure Review	1	19	4	2		26
Presidential Search	3	35	10	7	1	56
Stop-WOKE		14	5	4		23
Viewpoint Diversity		43	12	5		60
Grand Total	4	160	47	32	1	244

Reporters interviewed many statewide and local leaders. To see all of the articles, visit our website **here**. News coverage can sway public opinion and influence members and decision makers. It is worthwhile to write a press release about local wins. Contact your UFF Service Unit Director for help with writing press releases and strategies for interviews with the press.

The most commonly covered statewide issues were the Viewpoint Diversity survey and lawsuit, the Presidential Search controversy, and Post-tenure review issues. Local issues were also covered in 33 articles. UFF was mentioned in an average of 20 articles per month.

Number of Articles Covering UFF in 2022



Events and Opportunities



STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

Elections for statewide positions are coming up. All UFF members in good standing (with the exception of at-large and retired member) are eligible to run for elected positions. Members may nominate themselves or other members and all members may vote in the election. You will be receiving a postcard at the mailing address on file with UFF with information on the nominating process. The positions on the ballot include statewide leaders and delegates to our national affiliates' convenings. All terms are two years.



UFF VIRTUAL SENATE- FEBRUARY 17-18, 2023

UFF will hold a virtual senate meeting on February 17 and 18, 2023 on Zoom. UFF Senate is our official democratic governing body and meets twice a year. Senators are elected by their local chapter. If you are a senator, you should have received an email to register for Senate from uff@floridaaea.org. The deadline to register is February 10, 2023 and you MUST register in order to attend. The agenda and information packet will be sent by January 17. Virtual training sessions and statewide committee meetings will also be held and open to all UFF members.



A LITTLE HOLIDAY CHEER

We hope you had an enjoyable and restful holiday season however you may (or may not) celebrate. An anonymous UFF member wrote a parody of *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* entitled *Ron DeSantis is Coming to School*. Adam Gottlieb performed a rendition posted on Instagram [here](#). Enjoy!



Andrew Gothard,
UFF President (UFF-FAU)
andrew.gothard@floridaaea.org

As your UFF statewide officers, we thank you for being a member of UFF. Every day, because of members and leaders like you, our union is able to advocate for faculty rights across the state, from campus offices all the way to the Florida Legislature. What we achieve, we achieve together through the power of collective action and the unshakable conviction of member solidarity.

Please feel free to contact us at any time.
We are here to serve and support you.



Caitlin Gille, UFF First Vice
President (UFF-PHSC)
caitlin.gille@floridaaea.org