

UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA

2023 Legislative Session - Week 4



Pictured: Over a dozen union leaders from FSU, FAU, UNF, FAMU, and more protesting the new post-tenure review regulation

TAKE ACTION!

[Click here](#) to oppose HB 999, which would eliminate academic programs and tenure. Our voices are having an impact; let's keep the pressure up! Take action on the Senate companion bill, SB 266, [here](#).

[Click here](#) to sign a petition organized by students against HB 999 and SB 266.

This Week in Tallahassee

This week was a mix of good and bad news across Florida's political landscape. In good news, **HB 999** and **SB 266** have stalled for another week, meaning we have more time to organize against these horrible attacks on tenure and academic freedom. Furthermore, because the House and Senate are dismissing on Wednesday for Passover and Good Friday, neither bill will be heard next week either. Follow the links in the "Take Action" box to the left to continue our efforts to shut down these bills before they can become law.

In not so good news, the Florida Senate passed **SB 256**, this year's union-busting bill, with a 23-17 vote. The House companion, **HB 1445**, has yet to pass, so keep an eye out for further updates as we see which version of the bill the House will soon take up.

In other not so good news, the Florida Board of Governors this week voted to pass Regulation 10.003 "Post Tenure Faculty Review." However, UFF members (pictured above) showed up in force to oppose the regulation through public testimony, and our advocacy over time made this attack something that we can continue to improve through our CBAs. Great job to all who participated!

Not sure who to contact? Find your locally elected legislator [here](#)!

On Monday, April 3rd, Rep. Hinson and UFF will be hosting a press conference in Tallahassee. Please join us in the Capitol Plaza at 9:30 AM wearing your UFF shirts!

The press conference highlights bills that would help higher education but that are being neglected by a legislature that is only trying to harm us. Our goal is to draw attention to these excellent bills and to show that we are actively advocating for higher education. Too often, the media narrative paints Florida educators as victims. But we know we are a force to be reckoned with, and that's why we're facing such brutal attacks!

Learn more about these bills here:

Academic Freedom :: Grad Fee Waivers



Pictured: (right to left) Matthew Lata from FSU, and Roscoe Hightower, Eugene Matthews, and Samuel Pyne from FAMU

We also continue to support the [AFL-CIO Working Families Lobby Corp.](#) If you are interested in taking action in Tallahassee, you can sign up today! If you sign up, make sure to contact nikkimorse@gmail.com so UFF leadership and staff can assist you.

In short, no matter your available time commitment, UFF has a place where you can plug in to make a difference. Join your colleagues in advocating for our future today!



Pictured: UFF President Andrew Gothard speaking with UFF members at a joint FSU, FAMU, and TCC membership event.

If you don't have the time to attend rallies, press conferences, public comment, rallies, or other actions in person, there are still many ways for you to support the cause:

- UFF continues to join our union sisters, brothers, and kin across the state to participate in FEA's Zoom "Power Hours" on Tuesdays at 5:30 PM. To register for all upcoming sessions, go to feaweb.org/powerhour.
- Members can check out [FEA's online legislative guide](#), which includes information on all the key bills we're watching for K-20 educators.
- Member can [reach out today](#) to let your senators and representatives know why you support Academic Freedom and ending "pay to work" for graduate assistants.