

UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA

2023 Legislative Session - Week 7



Pictured: National AAUP President Irene Mulvey testifying against HB 999. Thank you for showing up to defend Florida, Irene!

TAKE ACTION!

Click the following links to contact your local legislators and ask them to [oppose HB 999](#) and [oppose SB 266](#).

[Click here](#) to contact your local Representative and ask them to oppose HB 1445.

[Click here](#) to tell your Rep to vote NO on HB 1355. [Click here to join the fight](#) against HB 1617 / SB 1718

This Week in Tallahassee

This week during committee hearings, SB 266 and HB 999 came into near-total alignment through a series of amendments. While a number of the changes have made these bills less apocalyptic for higher education (e.g., no outright bans on majors and minors and removal of the call for post-tenure review at any time), UFF still maintains significant concern about the return of banned funding for DEI programs, the barring of grievance and arbitration procedures at our universities, and changes to general education courses. It is imperative that all UFF members contact your local legislators and and tell them to vote against these attacks on Florida's higher education system. See the "Take Action" box on the left to find out how!

On Thursday, the House announced that next week it would take up HB 1445, this year's anti-union bill. Because SB 256, the Senate companion, already passed on the Senate floor earlier this month, if HB 1445 is carried on the House floor, the bill would immediately go to the desk of Gov. DeSantis for signature. Use the link on the left to take take action to oppose this bill today!

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

Xenophobia and HB 1355 / HB 1617

A bill that has flown under the radar for much of this session but will have a direct, harmful impact upon international faculty is HB 1355. The leaders of the UFF-UF chapter have provided [a helpful summary of the bill's contents](#), as well as [a link for signing a petition to oppose this discriminatory piece of legislation](#).

Although the Senate companion has already moved through that chamber, there is still time to contact your local House Representative and ask them to vote NO on HB 1355. Use the the "Take Action" box to find your local legislator and contact them today!

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO is opposing another anti-immigrant bill. [Click Here to Join the Fight!](#)



Pictured: UFF-FSU President Matthew Lata testifying against SB 266 at the Senate Fiscal Policy hearing.

There is no need to end your local dues deduction, as new dues deductions will not begin until after July 1st. However, if you have any questions or need extra help, you can join one of two weekly opportunities to get any support you need!

Every Monday from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, UFF will host statewide Zoom eDues Office Hours, where members can receive one-on-one assistance with signing up for the eDues system. [Join here!](#)

Every Friday, from 3:00 - 4:00pm, UFF is hosting Fight Back Friday townhalls, where all members can receive eDues instructions and work on local organizing plans to help their colleagues join this safe and secure system. [Register here!](#)



Pictured: UFF-FSU leader Will Hanley testifying before the Education & Employment Committee against HB 999.

Transition to eDues

In just a few weeks, UFF has already transitioned over 1100 members to the eDues system, which represents just over 12% of our total membership! With HB 1445 on the verge of passage, it is important that we continue to spread the word about eDues and help as many members as possible join this proprietary, convenient, and secure system.

Joining is simple! Search your email inbox for your eDues invitation from the following email address: centralmemberssystem@floridaaea.org. This digital invitation will contain all of the information you need to join this secure system. On average, it take a member less than three minutes to sign up.