

NEIU UPI Newsletter / Update January 2019

A New Hope... for Higher Ed in Illinois

The *Chicago Tribune* headline on January 15, 2019 is "Governor J.B.Pritzker approves pro-labor measure on first full day in office..." That is a breath of fresh air for workers in Illinois, including us. Fortunately, our UPI Local 4100 president, John Miller, is on the new governor's advisory committee on higher education policy, so we have a voice. As in all political situations, getting officials who represent our interests is only the beginning. The ongoing work will be to hold the new governor and members of the Illinois Assembly accountable to their promises. To do this, we have to stay organized!

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

January 31 3 pm LWH 100
February 25 3 pm
April 4 3 pm

Our Contract and Negotiations

Last semester we had extensive conversations about how to approach the end of our current CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement) which lasts until August 2019. Based on feedback from members and assessment of our overall situation, we are preparing to ask the administration to roll over the majority of our CBA, and bargain mainly for Article 21 Compensation. I urge you to read Article 21 to review the many issues covered by it!

A bargaining team has been appointed: Jerry Moreno, Nik Hoel, Cyndi Moran, and Stephen Frankel. Three of these folks negotiated our current contract, so they bring experience and insight to the process.

We need to build a diverse support team – union members from all work groups who will do research and provide consultations throughout the bargaining process. Please let us know if

you are willing to be part of this team. Preparatory work is beginning now!

FAST Fund

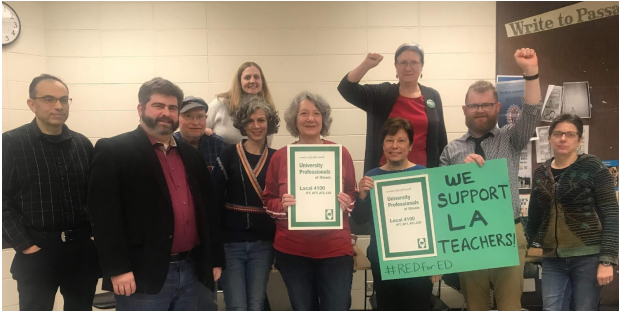
Near the end of Fall 2018 the UPI FAST Fund (Faculty And Students Together) started making emergency grants to students. Members of the FAST Fund committee -- Laura Tejada, Russell Wartalski, Kendra Stern, and Nancy Matthews -- were appointed and developed an application and general approach. Within our first two weeks, we made 5 grants totaling \$1815.

There has been some confusion because VP of Student Affairs Daniel Lopez and Acting Provost Wamucii Njogu started a Student Emergency Fund right at the same time as we were organizing the FAST Fund. These are, for now, completely separate funds, with overlapping, but distinct approaches. We may explore collaboration in the future, but for now, the UPI FAST Fund provides important assistance to students that the other one does not (for example, help with past due tuition that prevents registration).

Please participate in funding this effort to help our students by contributing to the FAST Fund!

Labor Actions in Education

The teachers in LA were out on strike for a little over a week, but have won and approved a new contract with some of their demands met.



Veterans of our UPI strike in 2004 remember how important it was to receive messages of solidarity and support when we took the courageous and risky action of walking out on strike. When possible, we will send collective messages of solidarity – pictures and social media work well! If you can't make a collective call, do your own message!

Faculty at Wright State University in Ohio went on strike Tuesday, January 22 after two years of negotiations and an unacceptable, imposed contract.

Chicago City Colleges faculty voted a strike date of February 4 if agreement is not reached.

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