

NEIUPI NEWS

A weekly news briefing from the NEIU Chapter of UPI local 4100



April 20, 2022

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Good morning UPI membership, and welcome to “NEIUPI NEWS,” a new weekly informational briefing brought to you by your union. This briefing will be published once a week to keep you up to date with activities and actions of the NEIU chapter of UPI and, once the negotiation of the new contract begins, with news from the bargaining team.

Below you will find a list of news items in order of importance, followed by two sections, “What Can I Do Now?,” which includes actions that each one of us can undertake right now or in the near future to support ourselves by supporting UPI, and “Labor Notes”, which details important issues happening in the world of organized labor (because we are not the only ones struggling for better working conditions). We hope you find it informative and enjoyable.

Please contact us at neiupinews@gmail.com if you have any comments or questions.
Thanks for reading!

-Brandon Bisbey and Olivia Cronk, NEIUPI Communications Team

1. Demand to Bargain Presented to President Gibson



On Thursday, April 14, about forty UPI Members gathered to deliver the Demand to Bargain to President Gibson. Also sometimes known as the Intent to Bargain, this is the formal “first step” in the momentous process of our upcoming Contract negotiations.

2. UPI Members and President Speak at Board of Trustees Meeting

During the Public Comments portion of the April 14 Board of Trustees Meeting, UPI Members Steven Wolk, Amina Chaudhri, and Hector Morales spoke to current problems in the Teacher Education Department, particularly poor contract administration and its deleterious effects on students' ability to pursue their coursework—and UPI President Nancy Matthews spoke about the general shortcomings of our current University Administration (including the Enrollment Crisis and President Gibson's failure to ratify the vote to enfranchise Instructors within the Faculty Assembly). "I believe, with Mariame Kaba, that 'Hope is a discipline,' and I'm trying to be hopeful, but I'm very concerned."

You can watch the meeting [here](#) (linked) and see the agenda [here](#) (linked).

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What Can I Do Now?

1. Attend the University Budget Town Hall on April 27 from 10-11:30 AM and wear green! The administration will be presenting its numbers and its narrative, which do not align with ours. If you attend in person at the Auditorium, please wear green to show solidarity and that we are united as contract negotiations approach. If you [watch it on zoom](#), please consider [changing your zoom handle](#) to show your affiliation with UPI (for example, "UPI-Brandon Bisbey").
2. Attend the [NEIUPI General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 4 from 12:00-1:00 PM.](#) If you are interested in what the union will be fighting for in the upcoming contract negotiations, please attend!

Labor Notes

UIC Graduate Employees Organization is On Strike!

You can participate in their letter-writing campaign: [Fair Contract for UIC GEO! - Action Network](#) and/or donate to their Strike Fund: [Fundraiser by UIC Graduate Worker : UIC-GEO Strike Fund \(gofundme.com\)](#).

UIC GEO created this FAQ document: [GEO Strike: Faculty FAQs - Google Docs](#).