

NEIUPI NEWS

A bi-weekly news briefing from the [NEIU Chapter of UPI Local 4100, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO](#)



May 3, 2022

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Welcome to “NEIUPI NEWS,” a new bi-weekly informational briefing brought to you by YOUR union.

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

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1. **Budget Town Hall**

On Wednesday, April 27, NEIU held a Budget Town Hall. The event was live-streamed (with about 100 attendees), and about 50 people attended in-person. Thanks to those members who attended in either capacity. President Gloria Gibson, VP for Finance and Administration Manish Kumar, Executive Director of University Budgets Mike Wenz, and Provost and VP for Academic Affairs Dennis Rome presented a great deal of information (NEIU’s credit rating is up, much money has been spent on technology upgrades, we are still in an enrollment crisis), but there was very limited time for

questions. Of note: 1) NEIU will soon announce an interim remote work policy, though it will not apply to members of all bargaining units, such as our ASPs and Librarians. NEIUPI is currently developing a set of proposals to be bargained. 2) The Administration is floating a “need” to increase the faculty to student ratio; this idea is being presented in a simplistic manner, and NEIUPI will be interrogating this position.

2. Joint Bargaining Training

Both the NEIUPI and NEIU bargaining teams attended six hours of joint collective bargaining training this past week; the training was offered by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. As suggested by the agency name, there was a lot of emphasis on how to be productive and reasonable! In no way does the training conflict with NEIUPI's organizing to use our collective power to back up negotiations, and it was a useful overview, helping to ensure that we all understand basic terms and concepts.

What Can I Do Now?

1. Attend the [NEIUPI General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 4 from 12:00-1:00 PM.](#) We'll be discussing some of our upcoming negotiating concerns and our plans for summer activities. Though this is our last meeting of the academic term, we will need members to stay tuned for upcoming actions during the summer.
2. Chapter President Nancy Matthews is having a “big” birthday next week and would be thrilled if you chose to recognize her birthday with a **FAST Fund** donation.

Thanks to the GREAT fundraising done by our membership on Giving Tuesday last November, NEIUPI's FAST Fund received a \$3,000 matching grant from Believe in Students, the nonprofit that helped us start this fund four years ago. However, as we all know, students are still in need! These grants can help them get through emergency expenses that put their ability to study in jeopardy. Some of our recent grants have helped students with

car repairs, paying rent after losing a job, dental care, and late tuition payments.

To make a tax-deductible donation, you can:

- Send a check made out to the UPI Small Grants Fund with a note that it is for the NEIU FAST Fund to the following address:

University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100
1901 W. Carroll Ave., Ste. 200/201B
Chicago, IL 60612

- Donate through **PayPal**: be sure to use the drop-down menu and choose NEIU!

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Labor Notes

Victory for UIC GEO

The University of Illinois Chicago Graduate Employees Organization (Local 6297, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO) **ended** their strike with an agreement. In other words, **THEY WON!** The over 1500 Graduate and Teaching Assistants at UIC who are represented by UIC GEO will receive over \$24,000 in wages by the end of their contract, \$2,000 in retroactive pay for the past year, supportive measures for survivors, and strike pay. You can read updates here:

<https://twitter.com/uicgeo>

Strike Averted at UIS

The University of Illinois-Springfield Chapter of UPI Local 4100 **averted** a strike, reaching a tentative agreement with UIS on Saturday, April 30. We have not yet heard details of the agreement