

# NEIUPI Update & Announcements

<https://twitter.com/neiupi>

<https://neiupi.org>

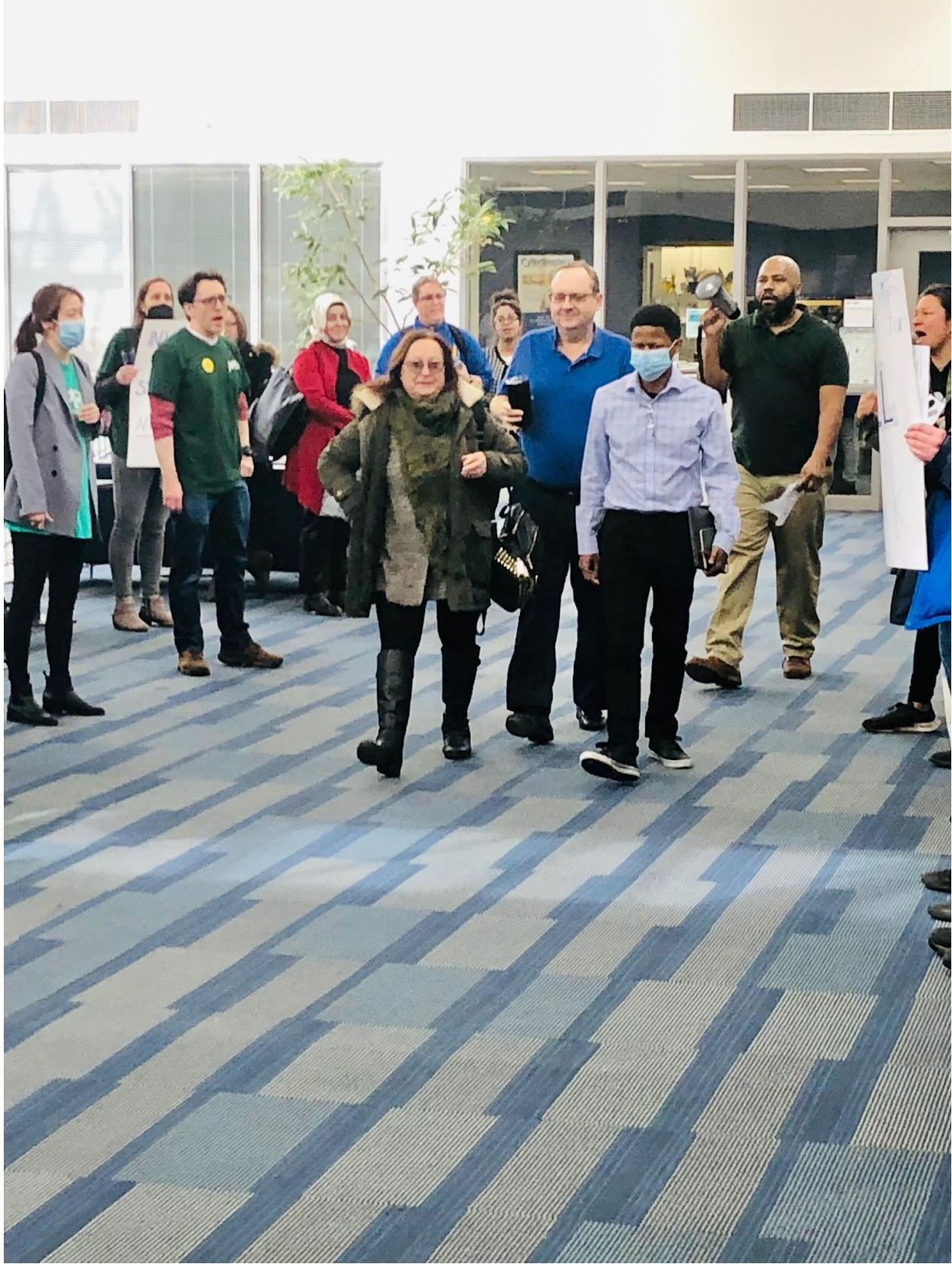
March 6, 2023

---

## **Members Turn out for Rally and to Observe Contract Negotiations**

**Thank you to all NEIUPI Members who turned out for our event on Thursday, March 2!** About 60 members and allies made some powerful noise around campus before lining the entrance to the bargaining room.





Thank you to Chris Merchant for leading our chants!.

Thank you to the twenty-nine members who acted as observers in Thursday's Contract Negotiations! These observers witnessed an Admin team with NOTHING to offer: no counter-proposals and an utter lack of preparation for the bargaining process.

Thank you to Members Nicole Holland, Laurie Fuller, Kris Over, and Julia Valley, who prepared statements on the Admin's lack of response to our DEI proposals and on the rigorous intellectual labor that went into creating these frameworks. NEIUPI remains committed to DEI practices that are more than neoliberal co-opting and institutional lip service; the Administration does not share these values.



## **What Comes Next?**

The NEIU Administration is failing to address even the simplest of articles and easiest of compromises on their end. Our folks in the room are working extremely hard creating proposals and counter-proposals, yet the Administration's team is disinterested, lacking in leadership, and clearly unprepared to engage in real dialogue, with only half their team showing up.

Therefore, as of March 6, NEIUPI has officially asked for mediation of the bargaining process. In mediation, an officer from the [Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service](#) who is an objective, neutral, third party attempts to help the two sides come to an agreement.

This is a common part of collective bargaining processes and is especially important for determining whether both parties are actually bargaining in good faith. While an important next step, mediation is not a magic bullet, but rather an escalation in the contract impasse.

The only thing that will actually force this Administration to come to the table seriously and respect our demands to bargain for fair working conditions is pressure. Mediation can help, but our members are the most important asset in pushing this administration to respect and recognize that our working conditions are our students' learning conditions. WE MUST KEEP UP THE PRESSURE on behalf of our students, our NEIU community, and the university that we all love.

To clarify:

We are not YET calling a strike vote, we ARE positioning ourselves for all possible actions. We do NOT want to strike, and hopefully we won't need to. To avoid having to strike, we must increase the pressure!

## **How to Increase the Pressure**

Sign this Open Letter to the new BoT: [BOT Petition March 6, 2023](#). We won't send it unless we get at least 100 signatures, so do this now!

**Come to the UPI membership meeting this Thursday, March 9 at 3PM in BBH 101**

***Outside of class meeting times***, speak with your students about the process and share this Student [FAQ](#).

If you haven't done so, talk to an organizer!

Email [execboard@neiupi.org](mailto:execboard@neiupi.org) or [nikolashoel@gmail.com](mailto:nikolashoel@gmail.com) or [thillmary@gmail.com](mailto:thillmary@gmail.com) to get connected!



NEIUPI is working for a fair contract and an inclusive university!

