

**Remarks to the FSU Faculty Senate on
Collective Bargaining and Related Matters**
by Jack Fiorito, Senator and UFF-FSU Chapter President

April 16, 2008

Good afternoon, and welcome to new Senators!

Since last month's Senate faculty and administration negotiators met once to discuss our salary article, and faculty representatives also held a consultation meeting with the Provost, Dean Rowe, and other administration representatives. As you may recall, the negotiating teams reached tentative agreement on promotion raises and non-salary changes to our contract last year. Since then, negotiations on compensation have stalled. Some modest progress was made in our most recent session. Given the budget circumstances, any progress at all is encouraging. The teams meet again this Friday at 2pm at the FSU Training Center. Negotiation sessions are public meetings and Faculty Senators are most welcome to attend.

Data collection has been completed for our latest faculty poll. Thank you to those who responded and encouraged others to respond. The response was up substantially this year. More than 600 faculty members responded, an increase of roughly 30% over our poll last April. Preliminary results are available at the UFF-FSU web site, and additional results will be released as analyses proceed. The increased response will allow more detailed results for most colleges and many departments, and we expect some interesting differences to emerge.

The results summarized in the flyer many of you picked up on your way in today are not terribly surprising: Budget cuts and politicization are doing serious damage, morale is plummeting, and more faculty members are thinking about leaving FSU. While not surprising, I hope the seriousness and widespread nature of these concerns as revealed in the poll can help persuade legislators and perhaps even the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission to reconsider some decisions.

Negotiations, legislative developments, and the latest poll results will be among topics for further discussion at a luncheon the UFF-FSU Chapter is sponsoring at 12:30pm next Thursday in the Florida Room at Oglesby Union. A catered hot lunch will be provided, along with additional survey results and a chance to talk with faculty negotiating team members about progress and prospects. Please attend if your schedule allows.

Are there any questions?

Thank you for your time.