

## **Report on University Welfare for Faculty Senate, April 21st, 2010**

By Senator Jack Fiorito, UFF-FSU President

**Good afternoon, and a special welcome to new and returning Senators.**

### **Collective Bargaining**

In three sessions since our last Senate meeting, discussions have focused on the quality of the bargaining relationship, recognition of superior sustained performance by full professors, and fairness in teaching assignments. Further bargaining sessions are scheduled for most Mondays during the next several weeks at 2pm at the FSU Training Center. Faculty Senators are most welcome to sit in, and ample parking is always available.

### **Consultations**

We will meet with the Provost or designee this Friday at 11am. Agenda items we have proposed include layoffs and second year stimulus funding for notified faculty.

### **Facilitation and Grievance Issues**

The UFF Chapter's grievance over layoffs is set for an arbitration hearing on May 13-14. UFF's legal counsel has begun preparing for the hearing. Our Chapter held a "post-it and pizza party" for faculty volunteers to sift through hundreds of layoff-related e-mails, and uncovered several gems to assist the case preparation. The e-mails cost our Chapter over \$1700, mostly for FSU vice-presidential time. In case you wondered, that's a good example of where UFF dues go. UFF affiliates will pick up the attorneys' fees.

### **The Ledge ("determined to drive our state off a cliff")**

The Florida Legislature seems to have focused its sights on K-12 teachers, state employees, and retirees this session. Some of this directly and adversely affects faculty and former faculty, and the thrust of it, for example the attack on K-12 tenure, certainly bodes ill for Florida public higher education in a broader and very real sense. It is now widely known that Jeb! Bush was behind the attacks, the same Jerk! who favors abolishing tenure for state university faculty and who incited the attack on faculty representation rights while Governor. Several FSU faculty members participated in a UFF lobbying effort last week that brought faculty from throughout the state to the Capitol. Our UFF-FSU delegation held useful meetings with both Republican and Democratic Representatives. UFF President Tom Auxter sent out a tongue-in-cheek message noting that we started our UFF lobbying effort at 9:30am last Thursday and by midday Governor Crist had vetoed the odious SB 6. In the same spirit, I apologize that it took so long for that lobbying effort to have the positive impact on the higher education budget that the Provost reported earlier.

### **Take the Poll!**

As you probably know, last evening we launched our April 2010 faculty poll. I hope all of you will complete the 10-minute poll and urge your colleagues to share their views as well.

### **Questions?**

Thank you for your time.