

Unionism and education, the two underpinnings of the once vibrant middle class, have been under attack for many years as the new “service economy” channels the nation’s wealth into fewer and fewer hands. Long Island University has, in many ways, become the poster-child for this movement. Collective bargaining rights have been trampled through imposed contracts and by simply “selling” union services to outside entities. The Liberal Arts have been all but eliminated because the administration believes our students do not need to know such unprofitable things for the jobs that they are going to have and the kind of lives they are going to lead. On top of this, our Brooklyn Campus seems to be in great peril and is literally falling apart around us.

This isn't the first time the very existence of the campus has been threatened.

Facing closure and the sale of the Brooklyn Campus a united faculty formed the LIUFF-the FIRST union in the nation for educators in private higher education. Rather than giving into fear, we stood together as a faculty, we stood together as a union. Tenured and untenured, full-time and part-time, we stood strong and we stood united, and we stopped them. Due to the commitment and courage of a united faculty, not only was the campus not sold; it grew and thrived-serving thousands of students who, in many cases, might not otherwise have had the opportunity to attend college.

I am running for President of the LIUFF because I believe in this faculty and in this campus. I believe that this can again become a place where students and faculty can thrive and creativity and hope can flourish. I am running for President of the LIUFF because I've seen what fear can do and I've also seen what unity can achieve. I am running for President of the LIUFF because I have never been afraid to stand up to the administration when they are wrong and they are wrong now. I am running for President of the LIUFF because we face a great danger to our campus and our livelihoods and we need to hold the line.

I believe that I am the person to lead you in this fight. I have a long history of service to the faculty and the campus and a proven ability to stand up for the rights of individuals against the administration.

Under my past leadership, the LIUFF has

- Won nearly 20 arbitrations, dealing with such crucial issues as:
 - Adherence to proper peer review and the ARPT process
 - The right of the faculty to choose their peers
 - The safety of faculty
 - The right of the faculty under the contract to set class size in a pedagogically sound manner.
- Favorably settled scores of other issues and grievances before arbitration, such as cases dealing with:
 - Payment of benefits and granting of leaves
 - Adjunct seniority
 - The right of the faculty to perform research, and be properly compensated, under external grants.
 - Support services for faculty
- Won or expanded many new contractual rights, including:
 - Doubling the size of the Adjunct Benefits Trust Fund.

- Incorporating a new Safety and Security clause was into the contract.
- Removing the contractual right of the administration to raise class-size quotas by 10%
- Gaining dental insurance as an employer-provided benefit for full-time faculty
- The institution of paid adjunct office hours
- The institution of a professional development fund open to both full-time and adjunct faculty
- Adjunct seniority payments
- Abolishing a two-tier benefits system for full-timers
- A 30% salary increase for both full-time and adjunct faculty

I do not claim all of these achievements and the ideas behind them as my own. I firmly believe, and try to live by, the tenant that success is “ours” while the occasional failure is “mine”, with lessons to be learned. I always perceived the job of President to be to listen, to try and form a consensus, and then to speak as the voice of the faculty in contractual matters.

I ask for your support again at this crucial time in our careers and in the life of this campus. If elected, I will reinstitute multiple small-scale “town-hall” style meetings throughout the semester, to better understand what you want your union to do for you. I will once again hold the administrations feet to the fire while enforcing the letter of the current contract and working with you to lay the groundwork for winning back what we have lost in the next negotiation. I never have and never will allow my own interests to affect my decisions and I will never agree to, or advocate for, a contract that is not fair for all faculty.

In closing, I remind you that your elected officers and representatives are not the union. YOU are the union! In these uncertain times, all we have is each other and each must believe in the strength of the whole. Because we have each other, no one has to fight alone. Make no mistake, we are fighting for our professional lives, our livelihoods and for the educational lives of our students. Your union exists to fight for you and I ask for your support once again to have the honor of leading that fight.

We did it before and we can do it again. Let's win back LIU!

In solidarity,

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