

STATEMENT OF RALPH ENGELMAN
CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

I started teaching at LIU in 1985. That year, a successful strike led to the reinstatement of academic tenure. It is an example of how the union has been instrumental in the protection of academic integrity, as well as faculty wages and benefits. The LIUFF was founded as the first faculty union at a private university in the U.S. in the aftermath of an attempt by the administration to sell the Brooklyn Campus. Now, once again, the LIUFF is called upon to save the university.

For the duration of the current contract, the LIUFF must take every measure at its disposal, employ every relevant section of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, to defend faculty prerogatives as the Cline administration embarks on a precipitous downsizing program.

At the same time, I wish to participate in the critical task of preparing for the next contract negotiation. This inevitably involves assessing successes and failures in our response to last year's lockout. It also entails creating a better system of communication with the membership and taking a host of steps to make the LIUFF strike-ready in case the faculty wishes to strike. In the past, I took the lead in the establishment of the LIU Labor Council and served as liaison with local politicians.

We need to address the fear factor and misinformation that have hampered our ability to respond to the Cline administration. A critical task is for the LIUFF leadership to develop a consensus on how to move forward, which eluded the negotiating team and the Executive Committee last year.