

UFF-SEMINOLE NEWS & NOTES No. 1 January 12, 2010

Greetings to all of you who turned out for Thursday's United Faculty of Florida-Seminole gathering! The event was a big success with about 70 folks in attendance. We had an opportunity to get to know one another better, have some of our questions about unionization answered, and speak with our Broward College UFF guests about their union experiences.

Additionally, thank you to those who indicated that you could not attend but were with us in spirit. Thanks also to new card signers and chapter members. 140 of our colleagues have now signed cards – 64%! Membership is growing as well and we invite those who have signed cards to consider joining. Check it out at <http://www.uff-seminole.org/>.

At Thursday's meeting, we were able to make the important announcement that our Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) documents have gone through the system and are awaiting signature. We expect to file our cards this week for an election in late February or early March. This is great news! Please note that despite assertions as to the high cost of the PERC election – there is none. This is truly an example of tax dollars at work. We will continue to update you as we receive new information.

Some of you have asked whether President McGee engaged in an unfair labor practice last week by addressing a mandatory meeting of faculty, using it as an opportunity to scare people about jobs, salaries, benefits, and families. This is a close call; she might maintain that she was simply keeping faculty informed rather than threatening them. We have asked for an opinion from the UFF legal staff but we are moving forward with our own plans and activities. For the record, be on the lookout for a response to Dr. McGee.

Several folks availed themselves of the chance to submit written questions about various aspects of unionization. We are in the process of composing a Q&A.

A by-laws committee is convening to consider changes to our interim by-laws. All dues-paying members will have an opportunity to vote on the final version. See the current document at [http://www.uff-seminole.org/downloads/UFFSeminole Bylaws 2009 1023.pdf](http://www.uff-seminole.org/downloads/UFFSeminole_Bylaws_2009_1023.pdf).

For the near future, we are planning to put together some online surveys for faculty so we can begin collecting concrete data about what we want in the contract. Anyone interested in helping out with this project get in touch with the officers via their UFF email.

Finally, we have begun to think about establishing a bargaining team. Doing so will mean we can begin to develop a core of faculty who will learn and understand the bargaining process and be better able to talk with their colleagues. It will also help us begin to talk with faculty about what is important to them. All dues-paying members are eligible so please contact any of the officers if you have an interest in receiving training and serving on this important committee.

Once again, thanks for your continuing support. Keep asking questions and expressing your concerns. We will find the answers if we don't have them at hand. In addition, please consider becoming involved in this effort. Everything from attending information meetings to making phone calls will need to be done. You will be hearing from us a lot in the upcoming weeks. Let's expand the conversation!