

UC-AFT President's Report
April 23, 2023
Katie Rodger
Activities since January, 2022 Council Meeting

Narrative:

My work this quarter has largely focused on internal UC-AFT administration, particularly working with the ED and Executive Board to discuss staffing. With 2 staff positions vacant, we have been working hard to support the leaders and members of those campuses, while discussing how best to provide staff support for all members now and in the future.

I have had more time this last quarter to collaborate with our Executive Board VPs and I see a primary aspect of my role as President is to support them in their respective duties. I'm especially excited to support Unit 17 in the planning of a strong campaign, as this will be an opportunity for all E-board members to work together to help librarians win the contract they want and deserve.

The weekly "UC-AFT News" emails have been a successful way to reach members, and I'm pleased that Action Network is enabling us to send messages and avoid spam folders. Our "open rate" for these weekly emails is consistently high, and I'm finding that each week more and more members are contacting me directly by replying to one of these emails—I am happy to connect directly to rank and file members across the state and have them feel they can easily access me when needed.

We continue to work with UAW and CUCFA to collaborate in a coordinated response to the UC's austerity in the wake of the UAW contracts. We have planned a number of legislative and organizing actions that will bring our organizations closer together as we push back against the cuts that have already begun across the state.

UC-AFT sent 12 delegates and retiree representatives to the CFT Convention in mid-March, and together we voted to ratify the constitution of the new Universities Council Division in CFT. We are now among about a dozen 4-year higher education locals in this new division, and as the largest, we will likely have many opportunities to help shape the objectives and direction CFT will take as it grows its reach in higher education across the state.

UC-AFT Governance and Administration

Executive Board meetings
Monthly Chairs' Calls
Monthly E-Board / Staff Calls
Regular communication with members, leaders, and staff

Representation

Consulted with UC-AFT VP for Grievances and Executive Director to formulate plan to support Bay Area chapter stewards during interim without staff support

Coalition Work

-Ongoing collaboration and coordination with UAW and CUCFA regarding UC austerity and impacts of UAW contracts on teaching in UC

-Met with United Faculty of Florida (AFT local) to support their organizing against DeSantis

-Met with Art Center Faculty Federation leaders to support their new union

CFT Participation

Attended CFT Convention - led meeting to constitute new CFT Universities Council Division