

Strike Support/ New Eboard

The fall was unusual in that Katie and John joined the Eboard a week before the strike and we had decided to get legal advice about strike support from our new lawyers which significantly shifted our approach to strike solidarity. With Katie and John coming on as the strike rolled out, we met and communicated often with weekly meetings and several emails a day, lots of 1:1 conversations as well. At the same time, I was communicating with UAW folks as well as UCFOG and CUCFA to coordinate our support. This turned into a series of town halls for members and dozens of smaller conversations as we aimed for more clarity on our legal and political possibilities. We learned that more regular opportunities for members to talk with the Eboard helps to calm fears and create better strategies for ongoing bargaining with management.

U18 Membership Campaign

Even with the strike, we continued our membership campaign in the fall and met our goal of 54% membership for the lecturers. This is a precedent setting number for our union in peacetime. But, it is hard to know exactly how this was achieved. There were several blitzes and UC Berkeley was especially effective in bringing their membership numbers up rapidly. Also, bi-weekly Statewide Organizing Committee meetings created an ongoing structure for tracking outreach and membership and was part of an atmosphere of attention to organizing that we haven't had before.

U17 Contract Campaign

My work with U17 has so far been primarily having conversations with Kendra and Bill to design the broad trajectory of the U17 campaign and the meetings, committees and training necessary. This fall we aimed for 1:1 conversations with every member to set up bargaining and are now in the process of enticing more folks to join the Contract Campaign Committee. I am now starting to meet with campus leaders to support their emerging activist network.

Dues Repair

Every month the university drops members from their dues lists and fails to collect dues on anywhere between something like 50-150 members. This has a big impact on our budget and collecting back dues from members has not been our preferred solution. I coordinated a series of conversations with UCOP/UCPATH to try and fix this. So far, we have a regularly scheduled meeting with Bill, Miki and management to track and repair dues that are not being collected. We are giving this a few months to see if it works. If not, we will need an increasingly legalistic and public organizing approach.

Organizing Grant Application

This fall I led the U18 Statewide Organizing Committee through a process of defining goals for an organizing grant from CFT. Like all grants, it was a multilayered set of documents and a bunch of hoops to jump through. But also it helped us clarify the relationship between our

organizing and leadership development and the needs of our bigger campuses especially. We should hear back from CFT in the next few weeks.