## Candidates for 2016/2017 FSU Executive Committee

The following individuals have submitted the required paperwork to be a candidate for a position on the FSU Executive Committee. Below is the candidate, their title and 150 word statement.

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<th>Position</th>
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| President (vote for one)| Marlene Kim                      | (candidate for re-election), Professor in the Economics Department. | It’s been my pleasure to serve as your President. I bargained a contract that gave you 3.5% raises per year for three years, successfully fought take-backs from management, prevented the share of your health care benefits from rising, and won you retroactive pay. I am building this union by working with all members, hearing and responding to your concerns, and involving more members. I worked with other unions across this state to win your retroactive pay and am currently working with a coalition of 20 unions on tuition and fee benefits for spouses and dependents.

I have served on the FSU Executive Committee since 2008, on the bargaining team since 2007, and with other unions, successfully fought the university from imposing a $10 parking fee. Given the challenges that lie ahead, I would like to continue to serve. I am an Economics Professor, specializing in work and workers, including unions. |
| Librarian (vote for one)| Tina Mullins                      | (candidate for re-election), Reference Coordinator and CEHD Librarian. | I have served as the librarian representative for the past four years and on the last bargaining team. I will continue to represent the interests of the librarians in the FSU.                                                                                     |
| Tenured Faculty (vote for two) | Steven Levine          | (candidate for re-election), Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department. | I believe am well positioned to make a positive contribution to the FSU executive board for several reasons. First, I’ve been at UMB for 7 years, giving me a sense of how the place operates and of the various debates about our future. Second, I served 4 years on the Senate of the College of Liberal Arts, three year on its executive committee, so I have both deliberative and executive experience. Third, I am committed to the values of equity and social justice, and will work hard to see them respected at UMB in the upcoming transitional years. |
|                        | Askold Melnyczuk                  | Associate Professor in the English and Creative Writing Departments | I often wonder how my parents, war refugees from Ukraine, would fair in today’s economy. I do know that, thanks to the Teamsters, and his willingness to work seven days a week, often doing double shifts, for nearly forty years, my father not only supported us, he also managed to put two kids through college. Our own union’s effectiveness proves itself annually. It recently showed the strength of collective action by succeeding in suppressing the proposed hike in parking rates. I remember standing in that mile-long line as we snaked through the Chancellor’s Office. The work of the Union is essential in maintaining a level playing field, and in making sure that everyone, particularly adjuncts and part-time employees, are compensated fairly. As your representative, my mission would be simple and clear: to make sure that every campus employee is treated and compensated justly. It would be a privilege to serve. |
Pre-Tenure Faculty (vote for one)
Sofya Aptekar is an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department.

I am excited to run for the Executive Committee because it will allow me to use my organizing skills to represent pre-tenure faculty. I became involved with FSU upon arriving on campus two years ago, contributing to the campaign for our raises, writing for the newsletter, and working with members of other unions and students to fight for high-quality affordable education. As your representative, I will fight for issues important to pre-tenure faculty, including transparency and fairness in the tenure process, equitable service distribution, and academic freedom around the use of social media. My experience at UMB and two other public universities allows me to connect our concerns to the struggles of faculty across the country – and to broader labor issues. I promise to bring critical insight, commitment, and energy to the work of our union.

Non-Tenure Track Faculty (vote for two)
Daniel Finn is a Lecturer in the Sociology Department.

I have been a lecturer in the sociology department since 2012. I joined the union at the end of Spring 2014 and have been an active member since that time. I regularly attend the monthly NTT Caucus meetings and have recently served as the meeting note-taker. Currently, I serve on the party planning and political action committees, but I am excited about the opportunity to become even more involved as a member of the FSU Executive Committee.

In my view, the strength of the FSU comes from its rank-and-file. It is critical for the Executive Committee to promote active participation and open communication across the union. As a committee member, I would do everything I could to further these goals.

Thank you for considering me as a candidate, and please let me know if you would like to discuss my positions.

Ellen Frank is a Lecturer in the Economics Department.

For the past few years, I have been very active in the FSU, attending and sometimes chairing meetings of the NTT Caucus, helping organize FTT events and, for the past year, serving as an NTT grievance officer, where we have dealt with a number of issues involving the changes in the new NTT contract.

Over the next year or so, the union faces a significant challenge. The Supreme Court, in a decision expected in June, may well prevent the union from charging non-members an agency fee that helps fund both FSU and MTA activities. Increasing FSU membership must therefore be a high priority of the Executive Committee.

I am committed to building the strength and presence of the union at UMB and trying to increase participation in the union of more faculty and librarians.

Ursula Tafe (candidate for re-election) is a Senior Lecturer in the Political Science Department.

It has been an honor to serve my first term as a Non-Tenure Track faculty representative on the FSU Executive Committee. In that time, I have advocated on behalf of NTT members on many fronts. Most rewarding was the role I played as a participant in the All-Union Organizing Committee which worked so tirelessly for the full implementation and funding, including back-pay, of the latest bargaining agreement: helping to organize and attending weekly ‘Wednesday Actions’ here at UMB, picketing in front of the UMass President’s office in downtown Boston, getting petition signatures, the ‘Just Imagine’ campaign, etc. Now, I am working with the FSU, PSU and MCCC to have the MTA Bylaws amended to reduce the MTA dues paid by part-time members. I ask for your vote so that I may continue to represent the interests of NTT faculty here on campus, and within the MTA.