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## FACULTY STAFF UNION, INC.

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100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125  
E-mail: [fsu@umb.edu](mailto:fsu@umb.edu) [www.fsu.umb.edu](http://www.fsu.umb.edu)

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Faculty Staff Union, we are pleased to welcome you to UMass Boston and urge you to not only become a member of FSU – but be actively engaged in your union.

This is a unique time to be starting at UMass Boston. We have a new Chancellor, and with it all the possibilities and uncertainties that a change in leadership brings. We are in the midst of a global pandemic that threatens not only the fiscal health of public higher education, but our personal health and safety in the workplace. And, perhaps most strangely, our work itself is no longer centered on campus, leaving us physically disconnected as we continue to teach, engage in research, and keep the university running in ways that serve UMass Boston students and employees. It's a challenging time.

For these reasons (and many others), it is more important than ever that we continue to build a strong union for faculty and librarians – one that allows us to collectively fight for health and safety at work while pushing for better salaries, working conditions, and job security. The FSU provides members with many tangible benefits (<https://www.mtabenefits.com/>), but ultimately a strong union is what gives us a collective voice to advance not only our own interests, but those of our students and public higher education more broadly.

Approximately 90% of UMass Boston faculty and librarians are members of the FSU because they support the work of the union, understand that the challenges we face will only be solved through collective action, and recognize that the union plays a vital role in the life of the university. The more union members we have, the more leverage we have at the bargaining table, at the State House, and with our Administration.

This is your union, and its effectiveness and visibility in the affairs of UMass Boston and in public higher education as a whole depends on your participation (fortunately, union service counts as university service in reviewing faculty performance!).

The FSU and our affiliate chapter on the Amherst campus, the Massachusetts Society of Professors (MSP), serve as the exclusive bargaining agent for the over 2,300 university faculty and librarians on the two campuses. The FSU is affiliated with the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) on the state level and the National Education Association (NEA) on the national level. The MTA provides us with legal and other support services as well as a member of its professional staff who works full-time with the Boston and Amherst faculty and librarians.

The 2020-2021 academic year dues are \$976 per full-time member of which \$276 supports the FSU, \$500 supports the MTA and \$200 the NEA (members who are less than full-time will have their dues rates pro-rated; see [here](#) for details). Most members elect automatic monthly

deductions from payroll as their preferred means of satisfying their dues obligation. Dues paid in this fashion are made over a ten-month period, September through June.

A union membership form is included in this packet. **You are not automatically a member; you must fill out the paperwork and submit it to the FSU in order to join.** Please return it as soon as possible to the Faculty Staff Union: [fsu@umb.edu](mailto:fsu@umb.edu) (deductions cannot begin until the membership form is returned). You can obtain more information on the union, including a copy of the current collective bargaining agreement, a list of FSU officers, and the FSU bylaws, at our website: [www.fsu.umb.edu](http://www.fsu.umb.edu).

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact FSU Membership Coordinator Lorenzo Nencioli at [fsu@umb.edu](mailto:fsu@umb.edu). You may also contact me directly: [steve.striffler@umb.edu](mailto:steve.striffler@umb.edu)

Again, welcome to our campus and please accept my best wishes for a rewarding and productive semester ahead.

Sincerely,

|                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Steve Striffler          | Caroline Coscia                       |
| Professor, Labor Studies | Senior Lecturer II, Political Science |
| President                | Vice President                        |

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