

Union News

• FROM THE FACULTY STAFF UNION •

FSU President Catherine Lynde Moves On

INTERVIEW WITH CATHERINE LYNDE, OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE FSU, CONDUCTED BY JENNIFER BERKSHIRE, UNION NEWS EDITOR

You're about to retire after three decades at UMass Boston. How has UMB changed since you've been here?

It's a lot bigger. The emergence of a permanent, long term and large presence of non-tenure track faculty is also a big change. Close to half of our classes are now taught by non-tenure track faculty. There are people who've been here longer than I have—and I've been here for 30 years—teaching here is their career. There are still a large number of faculty here who are committed to the idea that everyone has the right to a good liberal arts education in relatively small classes, and that part of what we do is develop an informed citizenry. The union is part of that culture and is often the voice for the importance of that vision.

There have also been big changes in higher education since you started teaching. Talk a little bit about what's happened.

Well frankly, higher education isn't as much fun as when I started out. There are trends that I find unpleasant. In the United States we're giving up on the idea of providing higher education as a civic duty by all for all because we all gain from it. And that's too bad. I also think that universities are moving towards increasing enrollment without hiring more tenure-track faculty. They hire non-tenure track faculty to do the extra teaching, and they're usually not treated as well. At the same time you have an administrative bloat at universities that's been well documented. You see the extra tuition going to pay for administrators whose value-added is questionable. More



OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE FSU, CATHERINE LYNDE, WITH FSU STAFF MEMBER LORENZO NENCIOLI, EN ROUTE TO THE STATEHOUSE TO RALLY ON BEHALF OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY AND STAFF.

and more of these administrators, by the way, come from non-academic backgrounds. They don't think of this as being any different than other industries with customers and products—and that's not the way I want to think about higher education.

The Faculty Staff Union represents both tenure track and non-tenure track faculty. Has it been a challenge keeping the two groups together?

I think in general it can be hard getting faculty to come together and fight for shared things. One of the things that makes the FSU unique, and I'd argue, effective, is that the union represents both kinds of faculty: tenure track and non-tenure track, and it's been that way since the very beginning of our union.





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Please send letters to the editor, comments, questions and suggestions to the Faculty Staff Union.
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For past issues of Union News, a list of union officers, information about the union contract and other matters visit the website: www.fsu.umb.edu

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Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues:

It is an honor to be elected FSU President. I am currently serving on the bargaining team and have done so since 2007. I have been on the Executive Committee since 2008. I also served on the parking negotiations team over the past two years, and took over the FSU Presidency when Catherine Lynde was on sabbatical during the fall of 2012.

I have been at UMass Boston since 2000. I am a labor economist, studying discrimination by gender and race as well as the working poor. My interest in these research areas stems from my own work experience in low-paid food service and clerical work and from my family's long history of ignoble jobs as coal miners, sharecroppers and farm workers-- my parents picked grapes beginning when they were six and eight years old, and my mother was interned as a Japanese-American.

I have worked my entire life on issues for women, minorities, and for workers, first as an activist and organizer when I was a teenager and then as an undergraduate in elected student government and as a paid Student Advocate. As a graduate student, I worked on the gender pay equity lawsuit against the State of California for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). I continue to work for labor unions across the country. So it is a pleasure to work for my own union!

I know the frustrations a lot of faculty and librarians have with so few resources. I hope to work with you on this issue so we have the resources we need. I hope that you will become involved in the union. There are plenty of ways: run for Executive Committee, help during bargaining, or serve on a committee to work on one of the many important issues that affect you. If you want to get involved, let us know! We are here for you. This union is only as strong as its membership is involved, so I hope you will voice your concerns and help us to rectify the problems.

Marlene Kim
Economics Department
Marlene.Kim@umb.edu

Marlene will officially assume her new office in July, replacing outgoing FSU president Catherine Lynde.

BARGAINING FOR NEXT CONTRACT NOW UNDERWAY

Be sure to check the FSU website for the latest updates on contract negotiations:
<http://www.fsu.umb.edu/content/contract-negotiation-updates>

Meet your FSU bargaining team members:

Christopher Fung, Lecturer I, Anthropology, chris.fung@umb.edu
Mickey Gallagher, MTA Consultant and Chief Negotiator, mgallagher@massteacher.org
Marlene Kim, Professor, Economics, marlene.kim@umb.edu
Jon Millman, Senior Lecturer, Economics, jon.millman@umb.edu
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Lorenzo Nencioli, FSU Staff, fsu@umb.edu
Amy Todd, Lecturer II, Anthropology, atoddfsu@gmail.com

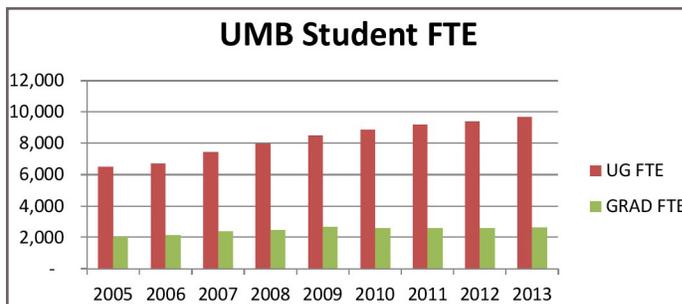
By the Numbers: Increasing Enrollments

CATHERINE LYNDE, OUTGOING FSU PRESIDENT, AND AMY TODD, ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Many of you have been concerned about increased enrollments and how they may be affecting our workloads. Let's take a look at the data.

Undergraduate enrollment on the rise

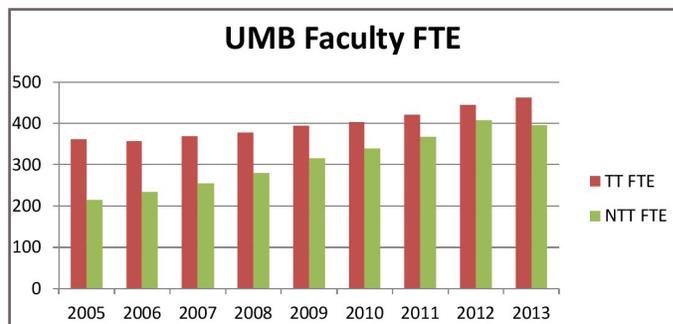
First of all, we can see that undergraduate student FTE has grown from 6,500 to almost 9,700—that's 5% each year. The number of graduate students has grown from 2,000 to 2,650 - that's 3.5% each year.



SOURCE: UMB STATISTICAL PORTRAIT, TABLE 1, FALL SEMESTER, VARIOUS YEARS.

NTT numbers growing

As seen in the chart at right, the full-time equivalent (FTE) for tenure-track (TT) faculty has grown each year by only about 3%, while the FTE for non-tenure-track (NTT) faculty has grown by about 8% each year. This suggests more of our NTT are teaching our growing student population.



SOURCE: UMB STATISTICAL PORTRAIT, TABLE 1, FALL SEMESTER, VARIOUS YEARS.)

Undergraduate Class Sizes: Fall 2003 to Fall 2013													
Source: OIRP Course Section snapshots reported annually in Common Data Set													
Course Section Size	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 13	Change Fo8 - F12	% change
2-9	318	319	285	253	240	236	195	174	206	187	166	-152	-48%
10-19	344	361	312	288	267	283	286	280	330	388	360	16	5%
20-29	350	359	380	425	452	439	509	549	624	604	624	274	78%
30-39	231	183	194	222	324	371	376	376	334	355	342	111	48%
40-49	19	27	20	19	30	42	43	37	31	32	41	22	116%
50-99	37	34	28	45	52	57	50	54	57	54	67	30	81%
100+	10	9	12	15	19	18	25	26	29	29	36	26	206%
Total	1309	1292	1231	1267	1384	1446	1484	1496	1611	1649	1636	327	25%

SOURCE: UMB STATISTICAL PORTRAIT, TABLE 44, FALL SEMESTER, VARIOUS YEARS.

Dramatic decline in small classes

Meanwhile, as the above chart demonstrates, over the past ten years, there has been a fairly dramatic decline in the percentage of small classes offered at UMass Boston. Specifically, classes with fewer than 20 students fell from 51% in 2003 to 32% in 2013. Over the same period, sections with 20-39 students increased from 44%

to 59%; sections with 40-99 students increased from 4.3% to 6.6%; and sections with more than 100 students increased from 0.8 to 2.2%. ■

Got a question or an idea for a future By the Numbers story? Send it to atoddfsu@gmail.com

Get to Know Your Contract: the Grievance Procedure

LORENZO NENCIOLI, FSU STAFF

The word ‘grievance’ can conjure up an unpleasant association with intractable conflict between an employee and his/her employer. While there are certainly grievances that exemplify this dynamic there are many more that are resolved informally without conflict.

In fact, according to the contract, the administration and the union are required to exhaust all informal means of resolving a conflict between a member and the Administration before the union can proceed with the formal grievance process. It is during this informal process that most disputes are resolved. So perhaps the best way to think of a grievance is less as a forum for inflaming conflict and more as a way for the union and the Administration to come to a better understanding of the proper way to implement the collective bargaining agreement. That is, whenever there is a differing interpretation of the contract the grievance procedure can allow both parties to come to an agreement on what the proper contract interpretation should be.

What is the contractual definition of a grievance?

The contract states that a grievance is ‘an allegation or complaint by a member or members of the bargaining unit or the Union that there has been a violation, misinterpretation or improper application of the terms and conditions of this Agreement by an administrative official’.

Who can file a grievance or pursue a grievance related claim?

Any bargaining unit member who feels that their contract rights have been violated, whether by intention or by misinterpretation of the contract, has the right to pursue resolution via the grievance procedure. Bargaining unit members may always seek the help of the FSU in resolving a grievance matter but they can also pursue resolution without the help of the FSU. It is commonly thought that the union must represent all bargaining unit members in grievance matters regardless of the substance of the claim. That is not true. When a grievance matter is brought to the attention of the FSU, the appropriate FSU staffers and officers will analyze the claim and determine whether or not it warrants going forward. If it is deemed to be without merit the unit member can still opt to pursue their claim with Admin on their own. In addition to any grievance claims made

by individuals, the FSU may also bring ‘policy grievances’ to the Administration’s attention for resolution. A policy grievance is one that is not specific to any one person- it may involve a broadly applied policy that infringes upon the rights of large numbers of bargaining unit members, for example.

When should a bargaining unit member pursue a grievance claim?

Certainly, if a member feels that their contract rights are being violated they should contact the FSU office and/or a grievance officer (see contact info below) to determine the best course of action. We also recommend contacting the FSU office and/or and FSU grievance officer if there are questions as to whether or not contract rights are being violated or if a member seeks clarity on what may or may not be a contract violation. Remember, the stated goal of the grievance procedure is to attempt to resolve all conflicts informally so working with a grievance officer does not automatically mean that a formal process will be engaged in. In addition, all consultations with FSU staffers and/or FSU grievance officers can be confidential—members will not be forced to pursue grievance claims that they wish not to pursue.

What happens if informal resolution of grievance matters cannot be reached?

Once informal methods are exhausted members have the option of filing a level I grievance. This is a grievance that will be heard at the UMB campus level. The Administration, the FSU, and the grievant will meet for a formal level I hearing where all relevant information will be presented. Admin will issue a decision within 21 days of the filing or by a mutually agreed upon date. If the decision is against the grievant, he/she may decide to pursue the grievance at the level two setting. This will be a hearing between the FSU, grievant, and representatives of the UMass President’s Office. If the decision at level II is goes against the grievant, a third level arbitration is possible. At arbitration a third party neutral hears the case and will issue a final, binding agreement that both parties will be obligated to adhere to. It is important to note that the decision on whether or not to pursue arbitration is not made by the individual grievant—it can only be made by the union itself. The reason for this is simple: decisions rendered via arbitration can set binding precedent that can be applied to ALL members regardless of whether or not they are involved in the individual grievance.

Interview with Catherine Lynde, continued from p. 1

In many other institutions they're in separate unions and more likely to be at loggerheads. Over the years the FSU has gotten contract language which gives NTT a far superior status regarding workload and pay that's as good as anything in the US. I think our members are very aware of that and appreciate it and want to protect it.

You've been president of the FSU since 2008. What are things you're most proud of accomplishing during your tenure?

I consider helping to forestall parking increases for three years a victory. A lot of what we've done since I've been president has been administrative. For example, we've developed a whole series of workshops and trainings with the idea that a lot of contract violations are based on ignorance, not ill will, and that if we could do some trainings about some knotty elements of the contract we could make everyone's lives a little easier. We've moved towards electronic voting instead of paper ballots—something that has increased voting substantially and saves us several thousand dollars a year. We introduced a salary anomaly fund into the contract, which is a way to correct salary differentials because market salaries are rising faster than the salaries of those of us who are already here, mostly because of wider economic currents. We also negotiated the ability for members who need time for an ill parent, a partner or a child and have used up all of their sick time to go to the sick leave bank (making use of everyone else's sick time to make sure that you're paid). I'm also really proud of the work we did with other higher education unions in the state to help spearhead a change allowing faculty to move to the state's defined benefit retirement system. For some people that's going to make a substantial difference in

their retirement, and it couldn't have happened without the public higher education unions and the Mass. Teachers Association pushing.

Are there issues where you think the FSU still has work to do?

I'd like the faculty that are in the union to see it more as "their union," as opposed to an outside entity that handles their business and solves their problems. It would be better to have more active involvement. We've talked about structures that would further that goal and made a little progress here and there. I hope that continues. And I hope that the FSU continues to work with other unions on campus and with the other public higher education unions.

You've been critical of some of the positions that the Mass. Teachers Association has taken in recent years. What would you like to see the MTA do differently?

I think that the MTA has been too interested in having a place at the table and is too willing to compromise in order to have that place. One important example is in regards to proposed changes in retiree health insurance. Not only do I disagree with the need for the change, I am opposed to the abrupt schedule for implementation, something I don't agree with and that was badly implemented. The MTA stumbled badly with that and they're paying a price with a lack of support from people. I also think their focus on politics is too much on talking to the legislators and not enough thinking about developing grass roots efforts. The MTA's definition of a grass roots effort is to organize us to contact our legislators rather than organizing us to say, get rid of high-stakes tests or take on issues of giant distance learning courses, student debt—issues that aren't just of concern in higher education but are of concern to the Commonwealth.

Anything you won't miss about being a union president?

I could certainly do without organizing any more meetings. Also, as with most things, problems faced by a small number of people need most of the attention. We have to spend the time to make sure their rights are protected in order to ensure the protection of the rights of the rest of us. This can take a lot of time and energy. Despite the onerous parts of the work, I've still very much enjoyed working with the members of the Executive Committee, the Grievance Officers, the Bargaining Team, and our Membership Coordinator; I think they all do a terrific job for us all.



OUTGOING FSU PRESIDENT CATHERINE LYNDE WITH WENDY SCHOENER, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT.

Coalition Bargaining: Strength in Solidarity Across Locals and Campuses

AMY TODD, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR

At the annual MTA Higher Education meeting in April, MTA consultant and attorney Michelle Gallagher led a lively meeting on coalition bargaining which was attended by members of all the UMass Boston locals, our sister chapters at UMass Amherst, state and community college locals and MTA staff members.

Depending on the issue at hand, Gallagher explained, coalitions may be campus-based or broad-based. We have had great success with campus-based coalition bargaining at UMass Boston around parking, for example. In contrast, on other campuses, the absence of coalition bargaining allowed parking privileges to be extended to some, but not all locals, or to individuals within locals

At a higher level, broad-based bargaining across campuses may be effective in negotiating issues in which a system-wide solution may be envisioned.

based on job category or rank. Coalition bargaining discourages such side deals and promotes solidarity around key issues.

At a higher level, broad-based bargaining across campuses may be effective in negotiating issues in which a system-wide solution may be envisioned. These include tuition benefits for employees and dependents, anti-bullying language, health and welfare, and workplace safety.

Two challenges to coalition bargaining were identified in the course of the discussion. One is a logistical challenge that has to do with the bargaining cycle. While most local bargaining is synchronized, the community colleges bargain on a different cycle, making it difficult to coordinate our efforts.

The other challenge is promoting campus-based and broad-based solidarity. To provoke discussion about how far we were willing to go, MSP staff member Ferd Wulkan asked us to consider the following hypothetical



JONATHAN MILLMAN, ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, WITH MICHELLE GALLAGHER, MTA CONSULTANT/ATTORNEY, WHO LED A RECENT WORKSHOP ON COALITION BARGAINING.

proposition: No local will sign a contract if a coalition member is being asked to make concessions that undermine their bargaining position and locals will take action to support other coalition members facing such pressure. The consensus was that that such a commitment would need to be supported by members of locals and that getting such support will require significant organizing and education.

While recognizing these challenges, participants were optimistic about the value of coalition bargaining and left the meeting ready to get to work on building coalitions. ■



CONGRATULATIONS TO ADJUNCT FACULTY AT LESLEY UNIVERSITY. THE ADJUNCTS VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY TO FORM A UNION AND WILL BE PART OF ADJUNCT ACTION/SEIU. ADJUNCT ORGANIZING DRIVES ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AT NORTHEASTERN AND BOSTON COLLEGE.

Help “Raise Up Massachusetts”

JENNIFER BERKSHIRE, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The minimum wage in Massachusetts has been stuck at \$8 an hour since 2008, but with costs continuing to rise, many families across our state are struggling to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads. Raise Up is fighting for the strongest minimum wage increase possible, to give a raise to as many workers as possible and to guarantee that the minimum wage will increase as inflation goes up.

Last year, Raise Up Massachusetts, a coalition of more than 150 community organizations, labor groups, faith organizations working to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents, collected over 285,000 signatures for two ballot initiatives: raising the minimum wage and guaranteeing earned sick time for all workers.

While both chambers of the Massachusetts legislature have passed different bills that would increase the minimum wage, there is no guarantee they will compromise to pass a bill that makes it to the governor’s desk. Therefore, Raise Up will need to collect another 60,000 signatures from May 10th through June 18th to ensure the two questions are placed on the 2014 ballot.

If you’d like to help gather signatures in your community, visit www.raiseupma.org, or call Massachusetts Jobs with Justice at 617-524-8778.



ADVOCATES FOR RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE AND PAID SICK TIME COLLECTED MORE THAN 285,000 SIGNATURES FOR TWO BALLOT INITIATIVES. NOW THEY MUST COLLECT 60,000 MORE BEFORE JUNE 18TH.

Interview with Catherine Lynde, continued from p. 4.

You’re actually from Oregon. How did you end up at UMass Boston in the first place? And do you feel like a native New Englander after being out here for so long?

I don’t feel like I’m a native—I don’t suppose any non-New Englander ever does—but I’ve been here for a long time. When I went looking for an academic job out of graduate school I liked UMass Boston because it reminded me of the place where I’d gone to school in Portland, Oregon: an urban, commuter university educating a lot of students who were the first in their families to attend college, like I was. My first teaching job, by the way, was at the Oregon State Penitentiary for Men. I was teaching an introductory economics class in their school which was in the middle of the jail.

Also, having been raised in Oregon and going to graduate school in California, I thought that maybe it made sense to try the other coast. I’m glad I did.

Why retire now?

As I said, there are some trends in higher ed that I don’t like. Also, my tolerance for grading is getting lower every semester. And I found that I could afford to retire; (something I didn’t really expect for many years.) And finally, I’m retiring before everyone else wishes I were already gone!

Catherine Lynde has taught economics at UMass Boston for three decades. She became president of the FSU in 2008.

Join Us!

Please join your fellow Lecturers/ NTT Faculty for a friendly end-of-semester gathering on Wednesday, May 14 (the last day of classes!) from 6-9 pm.

Where: The Savin Bar and Kitchen, 112 Savin Hill Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02125, one mile from campus by car; 0.7 miles by foot; and just across the street from the Savin Hill T Station on the Red Line.

<https://goo.gl/maps/Y0OSF>

Cash bar with an assortment of appetizers complements of the FSU.

We hope to see you there!

The NTT Faculty Caucus

The Non-Tenure Track Faculty Caucus of the FSU is a group of concerned/activist lecturers who monitor and respond to issues affecting our working conditions. The caucus is an opportunity to promote solidarity among lecturers and discuss broader labor concerns. All NTT faculty are welcome to attend.



Get to Know Your Contract: Grievance procedure, continued from page 4

So in order to protect its members and avoid negative results from a precedent setting ruling, the union reserves the right to determine whether or not grievances should be considered for arbitration.

What are some of the more common employment issues that can be addressed via the grievance procedure?

Again, any workplace issue that arises can be addressed and resolved informally though there are certain issues that may commonly result in formally filed grievances. These include underpayments, hostile work environments, improper course or work assignments, infringement on academic freedom, just to name a few (see below for some of the restrictions on the grievance procedure).

Are there some employment issues that cannot be grieved?

The contract does stipulate a number of specific areas where the grievance procedure does not apply. The most important of these are merit awards, the offering of courses (or lack thereof) to probationary lecturers, and any personnel or promotional decisions (to determine whether or not a particular area of concern is subject to the grievance procedure please check the relevant article in the contract- if there are grievance limitations, the contract language in that particular article will reflect that). This last point is very important- members cannot grieve a tenure decision, for example. However, if there are deemed to have been procedural violations in the promotional process, a grievance may be filed but only over the process, not the decision itself.

When do I have to file a grievance?

A grievance must be filed within 60 days of the occurrence of an infraction or within 60 days of learning of the infraction or within 60 days from when a member or the union should have learned of the infraction (whichever is later). In either case, a grievance cannot be filed more than 1 year after the initial infraction occurred.

Do I have to worry about retaliation if I have to file a grievance? No one can say with certainty how an Administrative official will react to the filing of a grievance. However, one thing needs to be made clear- the contract is unambiguous about the issue of retaliation. No member can be retaliated against for filing a grievance, engaging in any union related activity, or simply asserting their contractual rights. The union takes the

issue of retaliation very seriously and will do everything in its power to protect members who experience retaliation due to the filing of a grievance. Ultimately, only you can decide if it is worth contesting a violation of your contract rights. But just remember that if you decide to assert your rights and seek redress of grievance, you will have the combined strength of the contract and the union on your side. ■

If you have questions about your contract, contact Lorenzo Nencioli, FSU Staff, fsu@umb.edu.

MEET THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Tenure Track Faculty Grievance Officer

Jeffrey Keisler Management

617 287-7738

Jeff.Keisler@umb.edu

Non-Tenure Track Faculty Grievance Officer

Phil Chassler American Studies

617 287-6756

Philip.Chassler@umb.edu

Non-Tenure Track Faculty Grievance Officer

Al Leisinger Mathematics

617 894-3526

leisinger@comcast.net

Compliance Officer

Larry Kaye

617 287-6534

larry.kaye@umb.edu

For more information, including grievance forms, visit <http://www.fsu.umb.edu/>