

# United Faculty of Florida - Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Tallahassee, FL 32307

## UFF FAMU Breaking News

The Florida A&M University Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida

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## The Gall of it All.....

Dear Colleagues:

As we have noted previously, this economic recession has had a devastating effect on the economic viability of many FAMUANS, as well as the entire Tallahassee Community. The purchasing power of our faculty and staff has barely kept up with inflation. In addition, the Florida legislature has enacted an additional tax on our salary called the Florida State Retirement contribution, which will reduce faculty incomes by an additional 3 per cent. This tax further aggravates the current economic situation.

University administrations across the county have reacted in many different ways to the financial crisis. Here in Florida, the President of Florida State (FSU) has proposed increasing salaries by 3 percent to alleviate the financial burden of this penalty tax. In addition, FSU administration has proposed monies for merit raises. Similar efforts are taking place at the University of Florida.

Other University administrations have attempted to alleviate the impact of this recession by concentrating on limiting the expansion of adjunct faculty and salary inequities, which are also prevalent here at Florida A&M University (FAMU).

William R. Harvey, President of Hampton University, and his wife recently donated \$166,000 to the University in order to make sure each member of the staff earned at least \$8.00 per hour. The \$166,000 is in addition to the 1 million dollars contributed by the Harveys to raise faculty salaries last year.

And our administration??? Tomorrow, after a month-of impromptu lay-offs, (which staff have been asked to leave their offices within two hours and not to communicate with FAMU friends during working hours); the actual day we are saying good bye to faculty and staff whose jobs were financed with President Barack Obama's stimulus money; the day before the Florida Retirement Contribution tax begins (reducing faculty and staff salaries by 3%), the same day, item VII is on the agenda of our Board of Trustees Meeting, to approve additional "Compensation from the FAMU Foundation", for our already highly paid administration.

As you may or may not know, the State of Florida puts a limitation on public dollars that can be paid to university salaries. And universities look to Alumni Foundations to support the financial shortfall. Therefore, if the monies requested in this agenda item are to satisfy current contractual obligations that is appropriate. However, if Foundation funds are being used to provide additional compensation (raises or bonuses) or to pay University administration for monies lost by the Florida Retirement Contribution tax that is simply questionable when faculty and staff are bearing this burden. Or as President Obama stated just today, the rich should also share the load of this financial crisis.

Yours in the Struggle,

*Elizabeth K. Davenport*

President

# The UFF FAMU needs YOU!



Consider joining the newly-created School/College Representatives. Currently, the following schools and colleges are represented. If you are interested in becoming a member of this dynamic team, please contact Dr. Perry [perry.brown@famuedu](mailto:perry.brown@famuedu) or Nandi Riley, [nandi.riley@famuedu](mailto:nandi.riley@famuedu)

## ***UFF Membership Form***

UFF dues are 1% of bi-weekly salary.

*Please Print Complete Information*

**United Faculty of Florida FAMU Chapter**

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Last Name First Name MI

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Department or Unit

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Home Street Address

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Campus Address & Mail Code

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City State Zip Code

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Office Phone

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Home Phone

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E-mail Address -- Personal/Home

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E-mail Address – Office

**Please enroll me immediately as a member of the United Faculty of Florida (FEA, NEA-AFT, AFL-CIO). I hereby authorize my employer to begin bi-weekly payroll deduction of United Faculty of Florida dues (1% of bi-weekly salary).** This deduction authorization shall continue until revoked by me at any time upon 30 days written notice to FAMU's payroll office and to the United Faculty of Florida.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (for payroll deduction authorization)

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Today's Date