

Defend Public Higher Ed Campaign Update

The state budget proposal from the Senate Ways and Means Committee includes level-funding for public colleges and universities through June 30, 2021. Despite these promising developments, public higher education executives are continuing to make draconian cuts.

The latest outrage: Salem State University is attempting to unilaterally impose a three-week furlough on faculty and librarians represented by the **Massachusetts State College Association**, announced the very same day the House gave them a level-funded budget. [See news coverage:](#)



"We will be losing course prep time, advising weeks and time to work on student projects," said [MSCA chapter President Tiffany] Chenault in an email. "During the pandemic we have been finding that our students need us more not less, and it's a shame President Keenan is doing this. Our students deserve better." ([more details on facebook](#) and see this [article in Labor Notes](#) on who pays for SSU debt.

Click here to [take action to support a budget amendment in the Senate!](#)

Require higher ed executives to **stop and reverse the cuts and bring back laid off and furloughed higher ed workers**. Legislators are expected to finalize the budget around Thanksgiving.



NOV 18 AT 5 PM EST - NOV 19 AT 9:30 PM EST

Light Up the Night for Our Public Colleges and Universities

November 18 and 19- [Actions online](#) and in person to Light Up The Night!

We will shine a light for higher ed by projecting an illumination on our colleges and communities to send out a bat signal to our elected officials.

Join us for socially distant light-up rallies or [online for a livestream on MTA facebook page](#). Click for details!

Locations include Springfield, where the **STCC President** closed 7 much-loved programs—without the knowledge of the Board; **Salem State University**, whose President wants to impose furloughs; and **UMass Dartmouth and Amherst**, where more than a thousand workers are on furlough.

Furloughs Hurt: Voices of UMass *"My furlough is set to begin the day after my wedding. A wedding that I have spent three years planning and saving for."* – PSU/MTA furloughed staff member.

Chancellor Subbaswamy announced In September that UMass staff would bear the brunt of a "budget shortfall" by taking furloughs and hour reductions, some of which are indefinite. These austerity measures have a massive impact on the community, and especially the staff members who are uncertain when or if they will be able to return to work and to continue to help students and the campus.

[Bring 'Em Back Town Hall](#) **Tuesday November 17 5-6 pm** For UML Unions and Friends. The **UMass Lowell** community has been impacted adversely by hundreds of layoffs, furloughs, and non-renewals of teaching contracts. Livelihoods have been harmed, workloads have increased, the health and safety of our community is at risk, and support for students has suffered. Meanwhile, level-funding means a claimed \$8M deficit would actually become a budget surplus.

www.MassachusettsAgrees.Org #DefendPublicHigherEd #FurloughsHurt #UnionStrong #CommonGoodOnCampus