

Candidates for 2018/2019 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.

President (Vote for One)

Marlene Kim, Professor of Economics (candidate for re-election)

I bargained a contract that gave you 3.5% raises per year for three years, successfully fought take-backs from management, and working with other unions, successfully prevented the university from imposing a \$10 parking fee.

I am building this union by working with all members, hearing and responding to your concerns, and involving more members. I worked with unions across this state to win your retroactive pay, prevent the share of your health care costs from rising, and reinstate the health care plans that were recently cut.

I have served on the FSU Executive Committee since 2008 and on the bargaining team since 2007.

We continue to face many challenges. I believe that my background as an organizer, former staff of a union (SEIU), and an Economics Professor specializing in work and workers, including unions, has served well. It would be my pleasure to continue to serve you as FSU President.

Steve Striffler, Director, Labor Resource Center, Professor of Anthropology

I am the Director of the Labor Resource Center, a Professor of Anthropology, and a member of the executive committee of the FSU. I have been in the labor movement as a scholar and participant for over twenty years, and held leadership positions in two unions prior to arriving at UMass. If elected, I will work to strengthen the FSU's tradition of being a powerful voice for faculty/staff-to continue to build a strong, democratically-run, union that is responsive to member needs, provides avenues for member engagement, defends our interests, and builds alliances with other unions. Strengthening our voice is crucial not only because the jobs of faculty/staff are threatened, but because our mission as a public-research university that provides an affordable education to a diverse student population is currently under attack. I hope to work with you to strengthen the FSU's ability to preserve and advance this important mission.

Tenured Faculty (Vote for Two)

Steven Levine, Associate Professor of Philosophy (candidate for re-election)

Candidate chose not to submit a statement.

Emilio Sauri, Associate Professor of English

I strongly believe that living up to our urban mission as Boston's only public institution of higher education depends on fostering a thriving union on our campus. Higher education faces unprecedented challenges. Devastating fiscal policies driven by privatization schemes have left faculty and staff in vulnerable positions. Our best recourse is maintaining a strong union that not only represents our interests at the bargaining table but also encourages members to see the union as theirs. My experience with unions began when I was a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where I helped unionize graduate students, a campaign which we won. I believe my work with the GEO at UIC provided me with the kind of experience that will help me be an effective member of the FSU's Executive Committee. I will work to get our employers to see that UMass Boston works only because we do.

Tim Sieber, Professor of Anthropology

After 44 years here, more and more I see the union offering the possibility of the freshest and most unified voice we as faculty can have here at UMass. The FSU doesn't owe anything to anybody – except to us, and the real commitment we have to our students, the communities we serve, our professional fields of knowledge, and the university mission. Even with the union, as we see with the recently-announced unilateral GIC plan to disrupt our health care arrangements, we are actually quite vulnerable as public-sector workers. Under Trump, we are also entering into a dangerous era for all organized public sector workers. We need an even stronger union that fosters more faculty participation and dialogue, includes everyone, and offers a clear voice on the many long-term problems that still trouble UMB.

Tenured Faculty SPECIAL ELECTION FOR VACANT SEAT (Vote for One)

Jeff Melnick, Professor of American Studies

No FSU member needs to be reminded that public education is under attack—in multiple ways on the national scene and in some very particular and pernicious ways in Massachusetts. I am running for this seat to try to contribute in some small way to the ongoing effort to make sure that the power of our collective work is focused both on the largest-scale policy issues and the most urgent local and individual concerns. I have been a tenured faculty member at UMB since I arrived in 2010 (and for many years before that at Babson College) but the first four years of my working life were as an adjunct instructor at Trinity College. I draw from the memories of that time, and from my more recent work life, as I place my name in nomination to represent all of my colleagues on our dynamic, complex campus.

Pre-Tenure Faculty (Vote for One)

Joseph Brown, Assistant Professor of Political Science

I am eager to serve on the Executive Committee as a way of building community and collective strength among faculty, staff and students. I realize the power and dignity that an effective union provides. If elected to the committee, I look forward to working on several issues, including member mobilization in light of the Janus decision, academic freedom, ongoing budget cuts, and increased parking fees. The budget cuts and parking fees are particularly conducive to building solidarity with students and graduate students, potentially offsetting the challenge posted by Janus with increased strength in numbers. I can offer my energy and creativity to advance these goals. I am eager to give back to the union, given all it provides to us.

Non-Tenure Track Faculty (Vote for Two)

Ellen Frank, Senior Lecturer, Economics Department (candidate for re-election)

I have been on the executive committee since 2016, served as the treasurer and am also a member of the grievance committee. I believe a strong union is essential not only for the interests of the faculty, but for working with the other university unions and with our students in keeping track of UMB's financial crisis and fighting to ensure that the administration's solutions don't hurt the UMB community or weaken UMB's core mission to provide excellence in teaching to students from greater Boston. We must also try to make sure that we and the MTA fight hard at the statehouse to fund public higher ed. Finally, we must prepare, through organizing and outreach, for a Supreme Court case intended to destroy public sector unions.

Monique Fuguet, Senior Lecturer, Mathematics, College of Science and Mathematics (candidate for re-election)

Hello, I'm back, running for a two-year term of my own (the short-term vacancy I filled is about to expire).

As before, if we haven't met, please let me tell you that I have been studying/tutoring/TA'ing/teaching at UMassBoston for nearly 20 years (formally joining the Mathematics faculty in 2005), and bring a valuable perspective as a STEM educator (historically missing from the ExCom) on many issues facing UMB.

Since joining the ExCom in November, I've stayed active in FSU initiatives, and been proud and grateful to be able to contribute more, which so far includes: helping bring MTA candidates here to a forum, investigating use of associate lecturer rank, department bylaws and parking fees, and participating in a conference on Bargaining for the Common Good.

I'd be honored to again: have your vote, listen to and voice your concerns, and continue to work on behalf of UMB's amazing faculty. Thanks!

George Kelley, Senior Lecturer in the College of Management-MSIS.

I first came to active union activities in the 2000/2001 timeframe, by making hundreds of phone calls as part of an initiative to unionize adjunct faculty at another university. The initiative at the time consisted of a 3-person effort out of a repurposed church office. I've been teaching online and part-time at UMass Boston for 17 years now. I have had a dual-career as a teacher-scholar and as manager in industry, including win-win vendor and supplier negotiations and contracting. Over the years I have had the opportunity to learn the major provisions of the redbook, the redbook implementation, and the bargaining agreement in detail. I seek to contribute some new energy and a fresh perspective as we advance the hundreds of workplace improvement and pay equity tasks before us, and to do so with more inclusive member participation, greater collaboration across campus units, and off-campus awareness and outreach activities.

Librarian (Vote for One)

Jessica Holden, Reference Archivist (Librarian II)

Since joining UMass Boston as a librarian in 2012, I have served as a member of the Librarians Personnel Committee (LPC), as well as secretary (2015-2016), chair (2016-2017), and past chair (2017-2018) of that committee. I have also participated in bargaining meetings during the FSU's most recent bargaining cycle with the LPC's bargaining representative. A strong proponent of unions and workers' rights, I will advocate for all of our members if elected, and would be honored to contribute to our university community by serving on the FSU Executive Committee. I ask for and thank you for your vote.