



PRESS RELEASE

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Tulane Workers United

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Tulane University Contingent Faculty Announce Plan to Unionize

New Orleans, La., — Tulane Workers United, a group of non-tenure track faculty at Tulane University, filed Thursday with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) for union recognition. On Tuesday, April 2, the union submitted a letter to university president Michael A. Fitts asking the university for voluntary recognition and the opportunity to begin collectively bargaining a contract. The university declined to respond to the request.

Tulane faculty are organizing to improve working conditions for those that do not have tenure. The group is advocating for better pay and benefits, more transparency around promotion and hiring, greater job security, and for equal representation in the operation of their departments and the university.

Union recognition would give contingent faculty the opportunity to collectively bargain over salary and related benefits, teaching loads, and contract details, as well as provide a process for filing grievances, at a university where many faculty lack sufficient job security or contractual protections.

The union is asking the university administration to remain neutral throughout the unionization process, as required by federal law, as we move towards an official election. As a next step, the NLRB will reach out to both the union and the university administration to establish an election date.

"Today marks a historic milestone for Tulane University as we announce the formation of Tulane Workers United. This effort underscores our collective commitment to ensuring that every faculty member is recognized for their indispensable contributions to our academic community. I am profoundly inspired by the unity and resolve these faculty have demonstrated in pursuit of a shared vision for a more equitable and supportive workplace. Moving forward, we are eager to engage in constructive dialogue with university leadership, confident that together, we can enhance the quality of education and foster an environment where educators and students alike

can thrive. This is a momentous step towards securing the rights and recognition this faculty deserves, and I am honored to be at the forefront of this transformative movement."

— Richard Minter, Vice President & Director of Organizing, Workers United

"The Tulane chapter of the American Association of University Professors seeks to promote the economic security of all faculty at every rank, stage, and role at Tulane University. The organization supports rights to unionization and collective bargaining and, as such, we ask Tulane University to maintain a neutral stance toward the efforts of the Tulane Workers United."

— Justin Wolfe, President of Tulane AAUP and Associate Professor, History

"We're really excited to be entering into a conversation with Tulane about the value contingent faculty bring to the school. We love Tulane and are coming together to make it a better place for students, faculty, and staff."

— Casey Beck, Professor of Practice, Director of Digital Media Practices

"I have taught at Tulane for over a decade and I hope that a faculty union can be a valued partner with the university to improve shared governance, economic security, and academic freedom for all those who teach and do research at Tulane."

— Casius Pealer, W. Henry Shane Senior Professor of Practice, Architecture

"Hopefully organizing will ensure that no Tulane professor teaches full-time for less than a living wage, ever again. Our students deserve creative, engaged professors. When we have job security and aren't struggling to balance side gigs with teaching, just to pay bills, the entire university benefits."

— Cheree Franco, Visiting Assistant Professor, Communication

"I believe that a union of contingent faculty will ensure equity of access to the decision-making process and our collective voices will be heard more effectively and efficiently than my single voice in the ether."

— Amy George, Senior Professor of Practice, Spanish

""I support these efforts and am excited for the transparency and trust we will build in the School of Science and Engineering."

— Katelyn Black, Senior Professor of Practice, Neuroscience

For more, please contact Tulane Workers United at: tulaneworkersunited@gmail.com