



Organize. Educate. Unite.

We are the union of Chatham University faculty.

Volume 1. Issue 9. April 17, 2024

Hearings, cont.

At last week's hearing, two local labor leaders made an appearance to show support for Chatham faculty: Nina Esposito-Visgitis (Executive Vice President, AFT PA, and former head of Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers) and Darrin Kelly (Pittsburgh firefighter and President, Allegheny/Fayette Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO) who appeared in full firefighter gear on his way to a shift. This week, hearings are on Thursday and Friday. It looks like we will get to call our witnesses very soon, perhaps even this Friday. **We could really use your attendance at these hearings to show support for our colleagues who take the stand to provide testimony in support of our union efforts.** Please [sign up for a shift](#) (or just attend for an hour – any participation helps, especially at this time of year). After this week, hearings are scheduled to resume on May 6 and 7.



Darrin Kelly, left, also attended the first day of NLRB hearings, pictured here with CFU organizing committee member, Lou Martin, on February 28, 2024.

Support from Our New Colleagues

One benefit of joining a union is getting connected to a large network of other professionals who support the work you are doing. Chatham Faculty United has received two lovely letters from members of AFT who are excited to see Chatham faculty organizing and wanted to share their warm welcome. One of the letters is from the mother of our very own organizer, Syed Adnan, and might make your heart melt a little!

[Read it here](#)

Did You Know?

This Week's FAQ: *Would a union make our workplace a tangle of rigid rules that authoritarian union officials enforce?*

We would vote on our contracts, which would include work rules. Some people have heard anecdotes about how forming a union means having more rules and bureaucracy. First and foremost: be very careful of these anti-union anecdotes. These are the "but I've heard from a friend that" stories, and such stories are often incomplete if not entirely inaccurate. Our workplace would only have rules that were in our contract that our contract committee negotiated with our employer. If we did have a contract that became overly bureaucratic or had unnecessary rules, the membership would vote to make eliminating or revising the rules a top priority in the next contract negotiation. We might even elect new members to the contract committee. We faculty vote on what we want in a contract and we faculty will elect our contract committee to do the bargaining.

How to Block a Union

Here's another way that administrations and trustees have been known to block faculty union efforts:

Send letters to you and your family.

After ignoring faculty concerns for years, administration may take a sudden interest. They might promise to do better, make a change, or ask for another chance. This is designed to mislead or divide the organizing committee and other faculty, and to play on your emotions and natural desire to be a good employee. It's manipulation, plain and simple.

[See more examples](#)

CFU Needs You

CFU runs on the volunteer labor of faculty members. We have lots of opportunities to lend a hand!

[Volunteer](#)



Miss an Issue?

Did you miss a newsletter? Want to send last week's edition to a colleague who isn't getting this email? Previous editions of the newsletter are now archived on the website.

[Check the Website](#)

Questions?

If you have questions, check in with an organizing committee member. Members of the committee are here to listen and learn together with you. We are volunteers committed to a transparent and inclusive process, because this union belongs to all of us.

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