

## **Report on University Welfare for Faculty Senate, March 18, 2009**

By Senator Jack Fiorito, UFF-FSU President

- In bargaining, faculty and administration teams continue to focus on new classifications for non-tenure track teaching faculty and new teaching awards.
  - On the first topic, the teams face significant challenges in reaching a mutually agreeable way to balance the interests of the university administration, NTT teaching faculty, the interests of tenure-track faculty, and our desires to preserve the critical role of a tenured faculty in the university.
  - On the second, we are talking about how to distribute stipends for teaching excellence based on football ticket revenues. Here a basic tension has emerged between administration desires to concentrate awards versus faculty desires to recognize that we have many excellent teachers among our faculty.
  - Progress is being made on both issues, but as usual, both sides would like to see things progress more quickly.
- Although both sides have agreed to defer negotiations on most financial matters while the legislature addresses budget matters, as you know the UFF has taken steps to address budget matters at the legislature.
  - The “Fate of the State” Coalition March and Rally on March 3<sup>rd</sup> turned out as many as 1000 people, mostly students but with a healthy faculty contingent as well. A TV reporter said that legislators inside the Capitol could hear us quite clearly. That’s a good thing.
  - Today’s rally to make our schools a priority was sponsored by the PTA, UFF’s FEA affiliate, school administrators, and other groups. There was a great turnout, including some Florida State faculty members. Legislators from both sides of the aisle spoke in support of public education. One important point a legislator made was that his colleagues are hearing lots of folks asking for tax cuts. They are not hearing enough voices in support of public education. We need to change that, and today’s rally and our “Fate” rally are helping to do that.
  - There will be future calls for public education supporters to write and call legislators. We know our local delegation is generally on the right side of this issue, and we will try to target others. When these calls-to-action appear, please

make those calls, write those letters and e-mails, and in every way possible help to persuade Florida legislators that public education is a good investment for Florida's future. We know it's true, but others need education on this. Please note that we are asking you to take action as citizens, not representatives of Florida State University.

- Questions? Thank you.