

**From:** Steven Shipman

**Date:** Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 11:05 AM

**To:** PresidentsOffice@saintleo.edu <PresidentsOffice@saintleo.edu>, jeffrey.senese@saintleo.edu <jeffrey.senese@saintleo.edu>

**Subject:** Letter regarding recognition of UFF-SLU

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To President Jeffrey D. Senese:

I am writing to you in my role as a chapter president of the New College of Florida chapter of the United Faculty of Florida. I recently learned of the unilateral decision made by the Board of Trustees to no longer recognize the UFF chapter at St. Leo, a chapter which has been working to protect faculty rights for over 40 years. The way in which this decision was made was shocking, with no notice and no discussion with the affected parties beforehand. It is completely unethical to make sweeping decisions that affect people's lives without giving them a say in those decisions. This move reflects a profound disrespect of the faculty and is inconsistent with claims that the institution makes to value their dignity.

You have an extremely dedicated faculty and the long-term persistence of the UFF chapter at St. Leo is an indicator that they are in this for the long haul. I strongly encourage you to re-recognize your local UFF chapter as a collective bargaining agent for full-time faculty and to restore the rights that you and they have already negotiated, outlined in the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Sincerely,

Steven Shipman,  
President, New College United Faculty of Florida  
Associate Professor of Physical Chemistry  
Leonard S. Florsheim Chair

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