

From: Ramie Gougeon
Date: Friday, November 6, 2020 at 9:25 AM
To: jeffrey.senese@saintleo.edu <jeffrey.senese@saintleo.edu>
Subject: Recognize UFF-SLU

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear President Senese,

I was shocked to hear of the St. Leo University Board's recent and rather underhanded dismissal of the St. Leo University chapter of the United Faculty of Florida. While within their legal rights, I would hope that an institution based on such lofty ideals as protecting the vulnerable and advocating for social justice would recognize when legal actions are not just.

The faculty union of St. Leo has been in existence for four decades. During this period, St. Leo's administration and faculty have worked together in a spirit of shared governance to create a premier institution of higher education in Florida. Now, in the midst of a global pandemic and the economic turmoil it has caused, the Board's sudden decision is sending a clear signal that it does not respect the faculty upon which St. Leo's success depends.

Your university's promotional materials speak to "the roar [is] within." With the Board's recent regrettable action, you should expect a loud, discontent roar from without. Restore the UFF chapter at Saint Leo as the collective bargaining agent for full-time faculty and restore all rights granted to them as outlined in the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement immediately. Show your students that the administrators of Saint Leo University are indeed living up to the values you espouse, and that you do indeed cultivate servant leadership that respects and upholds the dignity of faculty, staff and all members of the university.

In solidarity,

Dr. Ramie Gougeon

UFF-UWF Chapter President

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