

NIU Candidate Statements

NIU-F Candidate Statements

Position: President

Candidate Name: Kerry Ferris

I have served for the past three years as an At-Large Representative to the UFA Executive Board. My UFA participation has been among the most meaningful experiences of my career: I have learned a great deal about collective action, and feel like our work really does increase justice. I'm especially proud of the health and safety protections we won during our pandemic MOU bargaining. But I know that there is more work to do. We will continue to protect our members' health and safety on the job; we will continue our efforts to address salary compression and inversion, and we will tackle the institutional inequalities that face groups underrepresented in the academy. We will also expand our organizing efforts in schools and colleges across campus—to increase our power in preparation for negotiating our second CBA. I'm honored to be nominated for President of UFA-NIU, and grateful for your consideration.

Position: Vice President

Candidate Name: Andy Bruno

I have been involved with the United Faculty Alliance since the beginning and am currently an At-Large Representative on the Executive Committee. We've accomplished a lot over the past few years and become a much stronger union. I am ready to serve as Vice President in the hope of continuing to improve conditions at the university. For me union activism is not only about securing a good contract but also part of a broader struggle to enhance the power of labor and fight for social justice. At NIU, I am an associate professor in the History Department and a faculty associate in Environmental Studies. My research focuses on the environmental history of the Soviet Union

Position: Secretary

Candidate Name: Sarah McHone-Chase

I recently completed my 3-year term as Faculty Personnel Advisor (FPA). In this role, I learned much about various policies and procedures on campus, especially as they affect faculty. I think that this experience has prepared me well for the position of Secretary for UFA. I am organized in ways that will benefit this role: I keep careful notes and place much emphasis on good, effective follow through. These skills helped me to be successful in the FPA role. I also believe that faculty are stronger together, and I am eager to help our faculty be as strong and as successful as we are possibly able. I have served on Faculty Senate, University Council, and UCPC in the past and I am well versed in how the university operates. I also have experience serving on Boards, including serving in the Secretary role.

Position: Treasurer

Candidate Name: Chaoxiong (Michelle) Xia

I have decided to run for the treasurer position after working in the past two years as a department representative. By attending department representative meetings, general membership meetings, bargaining meetings and member recruitment meetings, I have witnessed the tremendous amount of time and effort our current board members, representatives and other volunteers have contributed, and how strong our union has become within a short time as a result of such collective efforts. For the treasurer's position, I hope I can use my analytical skills for the accurate maintenance of membership and financial records of the UFA chapter. As a member, I hope to be involved in our collective efforts to make an influence on university decisions that are important to our members and the community.

Position: Representative to the local
Candidate Name: Beatrix Hoffman

I would be honored to serve as the UFA's Representative to University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100. The person in this position represents our union as a voting member of the UPI Executive Board. As UFA Representative to the Local, I hope to continue Simón Weffer's important work in building strong relationships and clear communication between the UFA and the statewide UPI. I have previously served on the UFA's organizing committee and on the bargaining team for our first contract.

Position: At-large representatives
Candidate Name: Wayne Finley

If elected to the Executive Board and Bargaining Team, I hope to help continue the outstanding work of the NIU UFA. Having served on both the MOU Bargaining Team and the Communications Committee, and as a Member Organizer for the Libraries and several College of Business departments, I've seen the positive impact the Collective Bargaining Agreement and MOUs have had on faculty across campus. And as an Associate Professor with NIU Libraries, I've personally experienced the difference minimum-at-rank salaries, merit pay, and money for professional development can make on one's livelihood. Despite the tremendous progress we've made as an organization, there's much more work to do. I look forward to improving on our already strong CBA, growing our membership, and helping advance the mission of the UFA.

Position: At-large representatives
Candidate Name: Carrie Kortegast

My name is Carrie Kortegast. I am an Associate Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs in the College of Education. As someone that studies higher education, I know how vital faculty are to the life and success of any institution of higher education. Tenure and tenure-track faculty are often the most permanent members of a university community. Thus, their voice and involvement in shared governance is imperative. I see the UFA as an important advocate for faculty, but also as a way to make NIU better. I hope to represent the needs of faculty in the College of Education, but also advocate for faculty across the university. In making the working condition for faculty better through competitive and equitable salaries, access to resources to support teaching, scholarship, and artistry, as well as fair(er) faculty workloads, NIU will be stronger.

Position: At-large representatives
Candidate Name: Kay Martinovich

Statement not currently available

Position: At-large representatives
Candidate Name: Mark Riley

My name is Mark Riley. I am an Associate Professor of Accountancy in the College of Business. I have seen the UFA make the lives of faculty better, as we have received regular pay increases for the first time in my almost 14 years at NIU, we gained vital protections during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the UFA protected us in numerous other ways. However, more work will always remain. Some workloads on campus are still too heavy, issues related to fair compensation persist, and no one can predict whether the pandemic or its effects are behind us. In addition, we must protect the gains we have already achieved. I hope to contribute to these efforts as part of the UFA Executive Board.

Position: At-large representatives
Candidate Name: Mark Van Wienen

Statement not currently available

Executive Board Candidate Statements

Position: NIU-UFA Executive Board

Candidate Name: Kay Martinovich

I am an Associate Professor in the School of Theatre and Dance, and I have been at NIU since the fall of 2013. During the past two years, I have watched my SoTD colleagues actively engage with the UFA as part of the bargaining team and negotiations. I am in awe of the passion and the extremely hard work put forth by the UFA to make sure all faculty members have a strong union and a voice in the proceedings. I am a member of SDC, the Stage Directors union and am well aware of the importance of collective bargaining as well as self-governance and transparency. As an At-Large-Representative of the UFANIU Executive Board, I would put forth the same enthusiasm and commitment as my colleagues to make sure the rights and benefits of the NIU faculty are secured for a long time to come.

Position: NIU-F Executive Board

Candidate Name: Mark W. Van Wienen

An NIU faculty member since 2002, I have served our faculty union as an English Department representative and member-organizer since 2018. Having actively communicated with fellow faculty on our conditions of employment, as well as collaborated with our union's executive board and leadership, I am eager to take the further step of standing for election as an at-large representative of the executive board. I have been deeply involved in membership recruitment, and I see building up and broadening the membership base as an urgent priority. My conversations with faculty across our campus impress me with the diversity of NIU faculty experiences, and union leadership needs to consider and respect these distinct departmental and college identities. But the larger task is to build a union culture on our campus in which departmental and college identities are less important than the welfare of all faculty.

NIU Instructor Union Candidates

Position: NIU-Instructor Treasurer

Candidate Name: Madelyn Kerback Anderson

I seek re-election as Treasurer for the. I have been Treasurer for three years and a full-time NIU Instructor for 29.5 years. I began teaching at NIU before the union was in place and have been a dues-paying member from the start. I am a long-time outspoken advocate for our Instructors through bargaining and communication and intend to continue using my voice and experience to serve the needs of our Instructors. I have extensive experience in non-profit financial management including many years on the board of the Sycamore Music Boosters, being an appointed member of the Illinois Arts Council Presenters Development Panel (evaluating grant applications, allocating funds), serving as the Director of Cultural Events, Augustana College (managing music and theatre performance and fine arts series budgets and fundraising), and Audience Development Director, WVIK-FM (processing donations).