



A Union of Professionals

AFT Campaigns for Campus Equity Week 2007 (and beyond!)

The AFT currently has two major initiatives that directly relate to contingent faculty and fit nicely into the spirit and goals of Campus Equity Week: One is a new “**Academic Freedom for All**” effort and the other is the **AFT Faculty and College Excellence (FACE) Campaign**. We are encouraging locals around the country to participate in these campaigns throughout the academic year, but Campus Equity Week is a perfect opportunity to begin. Below you will find a write up of each campaign and other materials are available on the CEW section of the AFT Higher Education website. Please look them over and, if you decide to organize an activity during Campus Equity Week or later in the year, let us know your plans.

Academic Freedom Forums

The first theme we will be promoting this year is based on the AFT’s new policy statement, *Academic Freedom in the 21st-Century College and University: Academic Freedom for All Faculty and Instructional Staff*, which is scheduled to be released during Campus Equity Week. This new statement makes the critical argument that academic freedom protections should be the right of all faculty and instructors, even those without tenure. Unfortunately, we know this is not the current situation. Campus Equity Week gives us the chance to talk about the realities of academic freedom for contingent faculty.

To that end, we are helping locals put together Academic Freedom Forums throughout the year, starting during Campus Equity Week. These forums will involve full-time and contingent faculty talking together about academic freedom issues. The purpose of these events is to highlight the AFT’s very real concern about the current threats to academic freedom, particularly as they are connected to the academic staffing crisis. At the same time, the forums are designed to facilitate discussion between full-time and part-time faculty to improve each group’s understanding of the other’s perspectives, and to build better working relationships for moving the union’s position forward in solidarity.

A one-page description of Academic Freedom Forums and other materials are available on the CEW section of the AFT Higher Education website to help you put together a forum on your campus. For those AFT locals interested in holding an Academic Freedom Forum, we will make the new policy statement available electronically and arrange to have enough copies of the published statement sent to your local prior to your event.

FACE Campaign

Campus Equity Week also provides AFT locals with a perfect opportunity to promote the AFT’s ongoing Faculty and College Excellence (FACE) Campaign, since FACE is designed to achieve many of the goals the week seeks to highlight. If you are not familiar with the FACE campaign, its goals are to:

- ensure that *all* faculty members are given the financial and professional support they need to do their best work; and

- establish a better balance between the number of full-time tenured faculty, and part- and full-time nontenure-track faculty.

We have included a brief brochure about the campaign, but to learn more, visit the FACE Web site at www.aftface.org.

If you are thinking of organizing an event for Campus Equity Week, we hope you will consider building that activity around FACE. Here are a few suggestions.

FACE Hearings:

Hold a hearing on your campus about the current academic staffing trends at your institution. Invite both full-time and part-time faculty to speak about the impact of those trends for faculty and for students, and how FACE (or the goals of FACE) could be used to correct that situation. Try to get an administrator and/or a legislator to respond to the current staffing situation at your institution and to the goals of FACE. You can hold a hearing regardless of whether your state is currently considering FACE legislation. These are educational hearings to raise the substantive issues that FACE addresses.

A guide to putting together a FACE hearing is on the CEW section of the AFT Higher Education Web site.

FACE Resolutions and Petitions:

Building support on campus for the ideas behind FACE is critical to gaining traction for the campaign with legislators and the community. To that end, we hope that local unions, faculty senates, individuals and institutions will show their support for the FACE campaign by passing a FACE declaration or resolution, or by circulating a statement of support as a petition.

A sample declaration that can be easily adopted as a resolution and passed by your local union, your faculty senate or other appropriate group is on the CEW section of the AFT Higher Education website. It also can be turned into a petition to be circulated and signed by faculty, administrators and students at your institution. We will publish declarations, resolutions or petitions on the AFT FACE Web site.

FACE Editorials:

In addition to promoting FACE on campus during Campus Equity Week, this is also a good time to submit an editorial to your local and campus newspapers. Campus Equity Week will generate media attention, and reporters and media outlets will be looking for local stories to fit into the national story. You can take advantage of that by submitting an editorial early for placement during Campus Equity Week.

A sample editorial you can use as a model for your own editorial is on the CEW section of the AFT Higher Education website.

These are three very different types of activities, and they are certainly not mutually exclusive. In fact, you could do all of them or some combination of the three. And, of course, you can create your own activity to promote FACE, either during Campus Equity Week or later in the year.

Contacts

If you have any questions about Campus Equity Week or about planning one of these events at any time during the academic year, please do not hesitate to contact Craig Smith in our office at csmith@aft.org or 800/238-1133, ext. 4426. And please make sure we know about any events you will be holding for Campus Equity Week, whether they are oriented around the themes we have suggested or not. The AFT will be reporting on CEW events on the FACE blog (<http://aftblog.blogs.com/face>) and the AFT Web site. We want to hear about everything you are doing and help you promote those events!