

UFF-FGCU Opening Statement
2016/17 Bargaining for 2017/2018

5 April 2017

The Bargaining Team of UFF-FGCU is pleased to enter this cycle of contract negotiations with a renewed sense of cooperation, and acknowledgement of the shared interests of both faculty and management.

Our University is entering a period of profound change, and the future is as exciting as it is unknown. UFF-FGCU recognizes that during periods of change priorities may shift, previous plans can be re-examined, and past practices will be called into question. It is important to remember that instead of viewing these situations as a threat, we should embrace them as an opportunity to better align the mission of our university to the requirements of our state legislators, our regulatory bodies, and the needs of Southwest Florida, which is the community we serve humbly and with great respect. All actions that we take together should be driven by our mutual desire to provide the best professional experience possible for our employees, which will naturally enliven the educational experience and success of our students.

It is in this spirit that we join management today determined to enter this new era by re-examining our employment contract. We look forward to examining these issues objectively and engaging in the sort of creative problem-solving that will likely soon become a mainstay of our University culture.

Respectfully,

The Bargaining Team of UFF-FGCU