

From: USF Graduate Assistants United

Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 1:47 PM

To: Jeffrey.senese@saintleo.edu <Jeffrey.senese@saintleo.edu>

Subject: Recognize Saint Leo's faculty union!

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dr. Senese,

"Labor unions that protect and defend the dignity of work and the rights of workers continue to have an essential role in society, especially in promoting inclusion... There is no good society without a good union" said Pope Francis in 2017. Along the same lines, Saint Leo University's Catholic Identity webpage states that the University's "Catholic Identity calls [the University] to... advocate for social justice."

And yet, in a Friday afternoon massacre, in the middle of a pandemic, without consultation with their faculty, the Saint Leo Board of Trustees unilaterally decided to stop recognizing the labor union representing those faculty. These actions speak volumes: it is painfully clear that Saint Leo's administration and Board of Trustees do not see its faculty as important.

This is not the action of an organization that advocates for social justice. This is not the action of an organization that recognizes "the dignity of all human beings and demands social and economic justice for all." This is the action of an organization that pays lip service to those values in its pursuit of selfish goals benefitting the individuals at the helm.

Saint Leo University needs to do better. Saint Leo needs to return to its nearly 40-year tradition of recognizing the United Faculty of Florida – Saint Leo Chapter as the collective bargaining agent for full-time faculty. Saint Leo University needs to immediately restore all rights granted to its faculty as outlined in the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Dr. Senese, I call on you and the University you represent to uphold your self-proclaimed values.

Sincerely,
Kelly Osterman
Co-President

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