

From: Meridith Miska

Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 at 10:45 AM

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

Subject: UFF-SLU must be recognized as a bargaining agent for SLU faculty!

Dear President Senese,

My name is Meridith Miska and I am co-President of the UF chapter of Graduate Assistants United. I am writing to speak out in opposition of your administration's decision to not recognize the UFF-SLU chapter as a collective bargaining agent for faculty.

To completely erase the near 40 year existence of this chapter without any discussion with the Faculty Union or the Faculty Senate before hand on a *Friday afternoon* is not only sneaky, it's wrong. And to do so during a global pandemic—one, need I remind you, Florida is not doing so well with—puts people's lives at risk.

These duplicitous actions are not the actions of a university whose Catholic identity calls them to “cultivate servant leadership that respect and upholds the dignity of faculty, staff and all members of the university” as it is put in your Catholic Identity Statement. Nor do they abide by the words Pope Benedict XVI, in *Caritas in Veritate*, who said “the repeated calls issued within the Church's social doctrine, beginning with *Rerum Novarum* [60], for the promotion of workers' associations that can defend their rights must therefore be honoured today even more than in the past, as a prompt and far-sighted response to the urgent need for new forms of cooperation at the international level, as well as the local level (25)” referencing the similar sentiment of Pope Leo XIII in 1891.

I demand you immediately recognize UFF-SLU as a collective bargaining agent for full-time faculty. Do not show yourself as hypocrites. Stand by your Catholic identity. Stand by *your* words and the words of your leaders. Restore all the rights granted to UFF-SLU as outline in the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Yours truly,

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UF-GAU Co-President

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