

CLOUT



American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees/Local 1723

1199C National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees/AFSCME/AFL-CIO

Brotherhood of University Employees/Service Employees International Union Local 612

Health Professionals and Allied Employees/American Federation of Teachers /Local 5106

International Union of Operating Engineers/Local 835

Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals

Security, Police, and Fire Professionals of America/Local 511

Temple Association of University Professionals/American Federation of Teachers/Local 4531

Temple University Graduate Students' Association/American Federation of Teachers/Local 6290

Temple University Law Professors Collective Bargaining Unit

Coalition of Labor Organizations United at Temple

April 22, 2011

An Open Letter to the Temple Community

We, the representatives of unionized employees at Temple University, are committed to Temple's educational mission and the well-being of the students, employees, and surrounding community. We recognize the economic and political environment we all live in and understand the realities we face. We know that in all essentials, we are one.

The most immediate concern of the entire Temple community is the threat to Temple's state appropriations. The fifty percent budget cut proposed by Governor Tom Corbett to our basic funding stream would have devastating effects on Temple. Students would bear the brunt of the cuts through tuition increases and cuts in programs and services.

Our unions are committed to working together with Temple administration to deal with this crisis.

- First, we are fighting the state budget cuts. Our unions and other members of the community rallied together at the Liacouras Center on April 4 to protest the cuts and to support Temple and public higher education. All unions on campus have encouraged our members to sign on to the Temple Advocates Legislative Outreach Network (TALON) petition and to contact our state representatives and senators to urge their support for Temple. Our state and national affiliate unions are one with us. They are actively contacting legislators and educating the public.
- Second, our unions are willing to work with Temple administration to find solutions for the common good. We want to protect students from huge tuition increases that will cause some to drop out, others to go deep into debt and still others not to be able to afford Temple's world-class education.
- Third, our organizations are committed to help Temple administration determine what financial changes are useful and necessary. We want to work together as a team. The unions have ideas about how to reduce university expenses and ensure that funds are available to fulfill Temple's core mission.

Temple administration is talking with each of our unions about what to do in these tough times. We want

to look at all possible avenues to help Temple financially. We must also represent our members' best interests.

To have a clearer picture of the financial crisis that Temple faces, however, our organizations need more information and facts. The state budget is in flux, with many members of the legislature seeking ways to moderate the cuts proposed by the governor. We need Temple to open up its budget and finances to us, so that we can better understand the spending priorities. When we know more, we will be better able to engage in fruitful discussions.

To ensure that the best interests of our students, our members and the whole Temple community are served, we call on Temple administration to consider us as teammates in a shared enterprise. We will do what is needed for the team. When Temple suffers we all suffer, and when Temple prospers, we all benefit. This crisis is an opportunity for labor and management to build a stronger, more positive working and learning environment.

(Signed)

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