



## United Campus Workers Fight Student Fees at ABOR Meeting

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ARIZONA** - United Campus Workers of Arizona (UCWAZ), CWA Local 7065, calls on all university students, employees, alumni, and the broader Flagstaff community to join us for a rally immediately before the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) meeting on Thursday, September 26th at 12:30 pm.

At Northern Arizona University, students in the College of Health and Human Services have spoken up about exponential fee increases with little to no communication from administrators. This student body is largely composed of working professionals, many with families, who selected the Family Nurse Practitioner Program based on its affordability and made financial plans based on the advertised program fees at the time of entry. The magnitude of the program fee increases have driven many students to withdraw from the program, transfer to other programs, and make large financial sacrifices to remain in the program at NAU. The fact that these students were not grandfathered in under the prior rates is unprecedented among public universities in Arizona. The student body is requesting that ABOR modify its position to allow students to continue under the previously agreed-upon fee structure for the remainder of their programs.

One of the fees all students at Arizona's ABOR universities continue to pay, [despite the bundling of fees and tuition at U of A](#), is the Arizona Financial Aid Trust Fee (AFAT), which funds scholarships for students with financial needs. This fee, first approved in the 1980s, aimed to make higher education **more accessible** for Arizona students by having the State of Arizona match **our** student fee contributions 2:1. However, since the financial crisis of 2008-09, the State of Arizona has been passing annual stop-gap legislation to bypass their annual 2:1 funding obligation. As a result, underpaid students, student workers, and Arizona families are left to pick up the bill. By failing to meet its payment obligations into this State Trust, the State of Arizona has taken about \$250 million dollars out of students' hands. Meanwhile, ABOR has raised [tuition every year](#), making education **unaffordable**. Why does the State get a fee waiver but students don't?

Students already struggle with high tuition, low hourly wages, and diminishing job prospects after school. It is long overdue for ABOR to remove **unnecessary** barriers for all students who are asking if their degree is even worth the cost. Education cannot be **accessible** if it requires giving up food, safe housing, or basic living costs to pay burdensome fees. We call upon **ABOR to eliminate mandatory student fees** for all in-state, out-of-state, and International students.

Our continued presence at ABOR meetings has made an impact, as we can see from the UCWAZ demands that have been met this year. We will keep fighting for better wages, job security, protection of student voices, and democratic universities where we are part of the decision-making process.

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**UCWAZ-CWA Local 7065 unites Arizona's diverse public higher-education workforce, including part-time and full-time staff, faculty, and students, to address the critical issues we all face. Our mission is to defend the interests and well-being of all higher education workers and to build social and economic justice in our workplaces. For more information, visit [www.ucwarizona.org](http://www.ucwarizona.org).**

