

AZ Universities Failing Students and Workers Amid Federal Attacks on Higher Education



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 press conference before and public comment during the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2025. We will hear from speakers from the [Arizona Students' Association](#), [Arizona College Democrats](#), and other community members for our press conference at 9:30am outside of the High Country Conference Center.

Our Arizona universities are under attack from the billionaires funding the Trump administration. University workers are facing funding cuts and freezes, DEIA programs and jobs are being quietly erased across the state, and ICE is disappearing students. We believe that:

- **Faculty should not fear being fired for doing their jobs.** Contingent faculty have no job security and are forced to censor their classrooms. ABOR is denying contingent faculty promised multi-year appointments, bringing an atmosphere of fear to our universities.
- **Education is a right, not a privilege dependent on immigration status.** By refusing to establish any sanctuary campuses, ABOR is leaving vulnerable students at the mercy of ICE deportations and visa revocations—ripping away their futures and betraying the missions of our universities.
- **The dismantling of DEIA initiatives is an attack on academic freedom and student safety.** Denying students access to the education they choose, LGBTQIA+ resources, and the history of Black, Indigenous, and Immigrant stories that built this country denies them the opportunities of knowledge that our universities claim to grant.
- **A university should be the home of open debate, yet campus organizers face arrests, condemnation, and silencing.** If ABOR truly values free speech, they cannot only protect the voices they agree with. The crackdown on dissent betrays the very purpose of higher education: to challenge power, not enforce its will.

We cannot go on like this. We call on the Arizona Board of Regents to implement statewide policies to protect all higher education students and workers from the federal attack on higher education. Our continued presence at ABOR meetings has made an impact, as we can see from our union's demands that have been met this year. We will keep fighting for better wages, job security, academic freedom, and democratic universities where we are part of the decision-making process.

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.

