

## Campus Labor Union Gathers Community to Flood Public Comments of Arizona Regents Board 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 Tucson community to join us on Thursday, June 12th at the University of Arizona for a rally at 9:30am outside of the Optical Sciences Building and public comment during the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) meeting at 10:15am at the Grand Challenges Building.

Our Arizona universities are under attack from the billionaires funding the Trump administration. Higher education workers are facing funding cuts, freezes, and [layoffs](#); the University of Arizona administration is actively dismantling valuable cultural resource centers, DEIA programs, and jobs; shared governance structures across our Arizona institutions are being actively threatened or completely shut down. We cannot go on like this. UCWAZ member and ASU student worker, Hypatia Meraviglia, said, "Our university presidents have chosen to preemptively comply with pressure to abandon our immigrant, Indigenous, and queer colleagues and students. They're making this decision to preserve the business interests of the universities."

University of Arizona president Garimella has yet to respond to the UA DEIA Collective's [list of demands](#), or to the [petition](#) signed by over 3,500 campus workers and community members in support of keeping DEIA initiatives on campus. He has also failed to address a [referendum](#) that urges school leaders to resist political attacks on higher education. This referendum was passed in the Faculty Senate with over 91% support among voting members. University of Arizona student Kelly Ancharski said "There is a refusal to collaborate and co-create with students, staff, and faculty from UA Senior Leadership - a deliberate silence to what makes us feel we belong, are cared for, and safe enough. Without those elements, higher education becomes an empty machine, an oppressive institution. We can talk about mission statements and imperatives forever, but if the action and praxis are not there alongside the discourse, 'student-centered' and 'best practices' are buzzwords." Our campus community is left wondering how the University of Arizona can "deliver" on their [Strategic Imperatives](#) to "improve student success" while simultaneously eradicating student resource centers and [laying-off dozens of staff and faculty](#) who work directly with students?





“Workers and students have been asking for better protections and more funding for Cultural Resource Centers (CRCs) for years. And now that the universities feel their pocketbooks under threat, they’re throwing us under the bus,” Meraviglia commented.

We demand accountability. Our working conditions are student learning conditions. 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. Every time the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) holds a board meeting, we show up to remind them of our demands and to make our voices heard during the public comments section. We urge ABOR not only to listen to the voices of our campus communities, but also to demand they speak up against attacks on higher education from both the Trump administration and from the Arizona State Legislature.

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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).**

