

Professional Staff Forum
March 2009 AFT Higher Education Conference, Miami
Saturday, March 7

This open forum will be a moderated discussion of issues affecting professional staff in higher education. Participants will have an opportunity to talk about conditions for professional staff on campus, including relationships with management, faculty and other co-workers. Issues related to participation in the union will be addressed as well as the AFT Standards of Good Practice for the Employment of Professional Staff. Ideas may be raised for future conference sessions and communications on professional staff issues. The issues and ideas coming out of this discussion will be presented to the AFT program and policy council for consideration at its next meeting.

Internal Organizing

- Does the local have a group dedicated to the organizing and mentoring of new professional staff?
- Are there places reserved on executive boards for professional staff representatives?
- Is there a committee dedicated to professional staff issues?
- Depending on the size of the local, is there an officer position dedicated to professional staff?

Collective Bargaining

- Is there a professional staff representative on the collective bargaining team?
- Do communication channels exist for professional staff?
- Are representatives and the union leadership engaged in gathering data for collective bargaining for professional staff?

Internal Outreach

- Does the local engage in educating other constituents about the work of professional staff members both on the local and national levels? What tools are available to the local to effectively communicate (e.g. local newsletters, websites etc.)?
- Does the local conduct audits on the major issues facing professional staff? Are general meetings held to discuss results?
- What resources does the local use to establish priorities for professional staff?

National Level

- What can AFT National do to help professional staff?