

5/19/2020 [Allunit] UMass Unions United Town Hall 5/21 at 7:00 pm

Dear colleagues,

We want to invite you to a virtual town hall meeting this Thursday, 5/21 at 7:00 pm with representatives from all of the labor unions at UMass Amherst. The flyer is attached. To join the call on Thursday at 7:00 pm please go to: tiny.cc/UUU052120 and enter the password: umassunite (or 405403 by phone).

You probably heard that many of the staff on campus recently agreed to five-day furloughs in the coming weeks. For many reasons, MSP members are not taking this furlough. As you know, MSP is currently at the table negotiating an agreement with the administration. We have not reached agreement yet, but we have discussed the fact that most MSP members are on 9-month contracts, with our period of responsibility ending tomorrow, May 20 – so there was no way for our members to be laid off for one week as other staff unions were, while remaining eligible for unemployment insurance so as to minimize the financial harm. Furthermore, as we prepare for online or hybrid teaching in the fall, faculty will be asked to take on significantly more work, not less, over the summer, during our period of non-responsibility. All of the changes to our workload and working conditions have to be negotiated between the union and the administration, and we will keep you informed when we have more details.

All of the unions at UMass are working closely together – including daily meetings – and we are supporting each other and standing in solidarity together, even as we make slightly different decisions that are appropriate for our members. You will hear more at the town hall on Thursday evening, and we will keep you posted as we hear more about the administration's proposals for the MSP. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

In solidarity,

Eve

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