

[United Campus Workers \(UCW\)](#) report for faculty senate:

February 4, 2026

UCW members are sharing information on [HB 490](#), which adds additional grounds for a university's board of trustees to remove faculty based on financial reasons. The bill defines “financial reasons” as including, but not limited to, the following:

- Financial exigency;
- Low enrollment in a particular program or major;
- Misalignment of revenue and costs in a particular college, department, program, or major.

[HB 490](#) can weaken [faculty tenure](#) and undermine the core mission of our public universities. When faculty can be removed for shifting financial reasons, academic freedom is chilled, shared governance is sidelined, and decisions about education are driven by cost-cutting rather than student learning.

What You Can Do:

- **Join us in calling legislators to oppose HB 490.** [Sign our petition here.](#)
- Join us for our legislative impact call on [***Thursday February 12th at 6pm EST/5pm CST on Zoom***](#)
- [Share information and actions](#) with your networks and communities.

Graduate student workers in [UCW](#) are also organizing against the mandatory athletic fee (\$400) assessed on students at UofL. They are circulating a [petition](#) calling on the Board of Trustees and President Bradley to include a fee waiver for all students and graduate students, current and future. They are working toward a majority of signatories. Please circulate this [petition](#), especially with graduate students.

- [Join your United Campus Workers \(UCW\) union here!](#) We organize as UCW of Kentucky UofL chapter, and, in the past few years, we have been building our wall-to-wall union from the ground up. Members pay membership dues on a sliding scale, join our member-led movement, and run and plug into organizing campaigns, including pushing for protecting academic freedom and fair pay for faculty, staff, and graduate and undergraduate employees.
- For questions: email meljgast@gmail.com