

United Campus Workers (UCW) April 1, 2026 report for faculty senate:

- [Join your United Campus Workers \(UCW\) union here!](#) We organize as UCW of Kentucky UofL chapter. In the past few years, we have built 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 academic freedom and fair pay for faculty, staff, and graduate & undergraduate employees.
- UCW-KY members also organize across the state and in coalition with AAUP – see our collaborative [statement](#) on HB490. UCW-KY members testified and organized in response to [HB 490](#) (which passed and moved to the veto period). [HB 490](#) adds additional grounds for a university's board of trustees to **remove faculty based on “misalignment.” This goes beyond the provisions of the UofL Redbook.** Faculty can be eliminated based on the vague umbrella of “financial reasons,” which includes, but is 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 academic and student-learning goals.
- **What You Can Do: Sign & share this UCW [petition](#) pushing Governor Beshear to veto [HB 490](#): <https://ucwkentucky.org/veto-hb-490>**
- **Join [UCW!](#) [Share information and actions](#) with your networks and communities. Plug in & join this long-term movement to create a more democratic, inclusive university where all workers have a real say over working conditions and benefits and where students are adequately supported.**
- Graduate student workers in [UCW](#) are successfully pushing forward a mandatory athletic fee (\$400) waiver! See this [petition](#) calling on the Board of Trustees and President Bradley to include a fee waiver for all students and graduate students, current and future. The Graduate Student Council adopted UCW grad student workers’ petition as a resolution to exempt grad students from paying the \$400 fee. UCW members continue to advocate to push this athletic fee waiver up the chain of command. Circulate this [petition](#), especially with graduate students.

For questions: email meljgast@gmail.com