

The **election for Union Council officer positions** will be held during the Annual Membership Convention on **Friday, March 11th**, in room **202 Pray-Harold** from **9am-6pm**.

Each of the Candidates for a Union Council officer position was invited to provide a Candidate Statement. Below are their statements:

**Office of President:**

**Thomas Wagner**

"In 2010 we ratified the Democratic Constitution of the Eastern Michigan University Federation of Teachers, to bringing together a single non-tenured or tenure-track EMU faculty in a common cause. As the Constitution eloquently states, that cause is 'to promote increased collegiality of non-tenure track faculty within and across academic departments and to ensure that these faculty are full citizens in the governance structures of the University and to promote workplace and economic democracy, justice, and inclusiveness both in the EMU community and the larger society'.

"To that end I offer my candidacy for EMU-FT President. It would be an honor to serve and if elected, I'd be pleased to serve without the generous stipend of an EMU-FT officer.

"Our Union initially achieved a number of successes through hard-fought negotiations with the Administration, but its current efforts are timid and defensive in the face of overt efforts by EMU's Administration to roll back previous gains. Our Union has lost its courage and initiative on behalf of all lecturers!

"While such topics as improved health-care and other benefits for lecturers were once on the table, today we see Union Council celebrating (after two years) very limited and partial successes in returning the status of lecturers to previous levels. Its leadership remains remarkably docile and accommodating to egregious Administration violations of lecturer rights and delays in implementing arbitrator-ordered remedies to those violations.

"With a 700 member representation (in two bargaining units), a full-time organizer, and a quarter-million dollar budget, we can do better. To that end, I commit my candidacy."

**Lisa Laverty**

"I am a lecturer in the Political Science department, where I have taught both as a part-time and a full-time lecturer since 2001. I have been the president of EMUFT for the last year; before that, I was the elected grievance officer most of the previous eight years. I have also been a member or lead negotiator on the last several of our bargaining teams. I am running for re-election to the role of president, and I am asking for your vote.

"This has been a busy year and a time of growth for EMUFT. Through a member-driven strategic planning process last spring, together we identified some key priorities for the year, including more member engagement and communication, expanding opportunities and recognition of professional development and outstanding teaching, preparing for full-time lecturer contract negotiations, and continuing to pressure EMU to adopt a fair pay schedule for part-time lecturers.

"Over the course of this last year, we have made steady progress toward each of these priorities, although of course, work remains to be done. Throughout the year we have seen growth in total membership, but also the emergence of new member-activists and leaders as stewards, EMUFT representatives on University committees such as the Faculty Development Center Advisory Council, new member leaders in the grievance, bargaining, organizing, and communications teams, and in many other roles, as well. In all of these areas, my major emphasis has been on bringing more member voices into the mix and providing support and opportunities for members to work together as we collectively address the issues that affect us.

"Together we have piloted regional EMUFT group meetings this year so that more members who live far from campus or work primarily off of the main campus have more opportunities to participate in union activities. We have also held more social and community events this year, including participation in EMU day at the DIA, engagement with community coalitions such as the Washtenaw Regional Organizing Committee (WeROC) and the Huron Valley Central Labor Council, EMUFT coffee hours and other social gatherings. Additionally, we've held regular membership meetings and a variety of workshops and trainings throughout the year in order to ensure that important information is being communicated, and that all of us, as members, have opportunities to participate in making important decisions about our union.

"In late March, we will award the first-ever EMU/EMUFT distinguished teaching awards for part-time lecturers (full-time lecturer awards were previously established and will be awarded, as well). We have partnered with the Faculty Development Center to jointly host new lecturer orientations and other programs, and I hope we will continue to do so in the coming year, as well.

"Of course, in the coming year we will have more work to do, and if re-elected, I will be asking all members to take a hand in what is all of our union. My vision for our union has been, and will continue to be, one where members, together, are the voice and driving force of everything we do."

**Office of Vice President:**

**Matthew Cooper**

No Statement was provided.

**Office of Grievance Officer:**

**Charles Bell**

No Statement was provided.

**Office of Treasurer:**

**Anthony Kurek**

"My name is Anthony Kurek and I would be honored to secure your vote for Treasurer. I am a Full-time Lecturer II in the Department of Accounting and Finance and have been a member of EMU-FT since August of 2008 when I began teaching at EMU. I am a licensed Certified Public Accountant in the state of Michigan and worked in public accounting with the firm of Plante Moran prior to leaving industry for academia. I have served as the Treasurer of EMU-FT since

May, 2013, and have prepared the last four years' financial statements, guiding the unit through the last four annual reviews, receiving clean opinions from the independent accountant conducting the review in each of those years.

"Thank you and I appreciate your vote!"

**Office of Secretary:**

**Jill Darling**

"I started teaching part-time, in the English Department at EMU in 2009, and I now work as a consultant for the University Writing Center. I have been Secretary of EMUFT since March 2014. The union at EMU has been important to many individuals who have needed advocacy and support where before they had none. And it has been and remains especially important for all part-time and full-time lecturers as we grow in strength and make the university aware of our power to support each other, to bargain for stronger contracts, and to be respected as professionals in our fields. We are invaluable resources for our students. My goal is to help make the administration aware that we are invaluable to the institution as teachers and as employees. I believe that we can continue to make EMU a great place for students, teachers, and the community if we work together. But we are only as strong as the individuals who work to raise our voice as a union. None of the work happens without the involvement of members who commit to change and progress.

"The more members who are involved, the more work we can do. My goal is to expand communications so that more members are aware of EMUFT happenings on campus and in the community, and to make sure that all members know how they can be involved. I look forward to working with you as Secretary, and thanks for your vote."

**We look forward to seeing you next Friday!**

**In Solidarity,**

**Zachary Jones, Erin Snyder, & John Wegner**  
**EMUFT Election Committee**