

Defend Public Higher Ed Campaign Update 12.15.20

Speak Out to Override Governor's Veto!

We worked hard to advocate for a level-funded budget for public higher ed, and our work is not done. Governor Baker has vetoed higher ed line items. **Please call or write** your state rep and senator and ask them to **urge the Speaker and Senate President to override the veto**. Action on veto overrides begins 12/16.

- **New ad from www.MassachusettsAgrees.org ! [Take action](#) and re-post the ad on social media.**

[Progress & Priorities: Activist Zoom Monday Dec 21](#)

Join Higher Ed activists **12/21 at 5 pm** for an hour-long zoom to celebrate progress we've made in the Higher Ed fightback campaign, and take a look forward to 2021 legislative and contract campaigns.

[Register for Higher Ed 2020 Progress & 2021 Priorities zoom here!](#)



"Bring Staff Back": Union leaders call out Marty Meehan

Great job by UMass unions in demanding trustees **bring back workers** unjustly put out of work during the pandemic. More than 7,000 employees have been impacted with hours cuts, furloughs, layoffs, non re-appointments, separations.

"Those affected feel like they have been stabbed in the back; that they are not important to the mission of this university. They feel abandoned and unappreciated for the hard work they have done for years." -USA President Leslie Marsland

"Budgets are moral documents and they state our priorities. I believe it is your job to protect the flagship campus from any further damage." - PSU Co-Chair Risa Silverman

"You want 'shared sacrifice', but one day off without pay is not the same for a chancellor and campus workers when the chancellor's annual salary is fourteen times my annual salary." - Lowell GRACE member June Lemen

"We cannot let you do long-term damage to our university based on misguided values. We are demanding that you put an end to the destructive furloughs and layoffs, exploiting the crisis to get rid of people and programs you don't like." -MTA VP Max Page

Power Research to Empower Workers. Members and professional researchers have been doing "power mapping", digging into the financial records and corporate ties of higher ed execs. [See our research](#) that the UMass Foundation has moved \$323MILLION deemed "excess campus operating expenses" to "aggressive investment". We need that funding to bring staff back!



UMass and BHE Trustee Mike O'Brien responded to workers by asserting the UMass Stabilization Fund is intended to be used only for emergency events, such as an **asteroid strike**

Illegal Furloughs

The same day that the Legislature voted for level funding Salem State's President John Keenan illegally imposed furloughs. More than 1800 students [signed a petition](#) in opposition, and President Keenan responded by threatening tuition increases. MSCA has filed an unfair labor practice charge and requests action to [CALL OUT KEENAN](#) and the SSU Trustees. Follow the fight on the [MSCA SSU chapter facebook page](#) .

See you **Monday Dec 21** to discuss how we can increase member power through our 2021 contract campaigns and legislative campaigns for justice & equity.