

*My name is Marcus Johnson, and I am a candidate for the position of Delegate in the AAUP Advocacy Local 6741 of AFT.*

*I am running as part of the [United Faculty for the Common Good \(UFCG\)](#) slate. We share the conviction that higher education is under attack and we need to organize and fight back. The crisis of higher education is decades in the making and won't be fixed with a business as usual approach. Issuing declarations and reports alone will not stop the attacks on academic freedom from politicians, unelected, politically-appointed boards of trustees, and wealthy donors. A business as usual approach will not secure the increased funding we need to reverse the adjunctification of the professoriate and stop burdening students with spiraling debt. We believe that the only way to create the system of higher education that we need is through a commitment to building labor power and solidarity, uniting faculty of all ranks, building coalitions with our other campus (non-faculty) colleagues, and expanding political power through coalitions with allied student, climate, and social justice organizations at the local and national levels, among others. We take inspiration from other grassroots and rank-in-file labor organizations—foremost [Higher Education Labor United \(HELU\)](#), but also those in K-12 education and other sectors, such as [Caucus of Rank-in-File Educators \(CORE\)](#), [Unite All Workers for Democracy \(UAWD\)](#), and [Teamsters for a Democratic Union \(TDU\)](#)—that are focused on transforming their unions, local and national communities, and the broader political landscape through organizing and direct political action.*

*Members of the UFCG slate believe in the radical idea that higher education should serve the common good. It must be an incubator of critical inquiry, unapologetic dissent, and rigorous research free from political, donor, or corporate interference. Higher education should be a building block of a healthy democracy and an economy that works for all. It must be an engine for social mobility, challenging forms of systemic oppression based on race, class, gender, sexuality, nationality, age, (dis)ability, immigration status, or colonialism. And all who work in higher education must be paid fairly and enjoy job security.*

*I am asking for your support for my candidacy and those of my fellow UFCG slate members because we believe a better university is possible and worth fighting for. I am also asking for your support because I believe that Local 6741 should be represented by leaders of advocacy chapters who know what it takes to organize and build power, especially in states where higher ed faculty lack the right to collectively bargain. I have been organizing at the University of Maryland College Park, Maryland's largest public university, since 2022, organizing with graduate workers and faculty across rank to demand our right to bargaining. As a part of the UFCG slate, I want to support advocacy chapter organizing and power building and work to bring needed resources and attention to advocacy chapters nationwide.*

*Join us and help us build higher education for the common good. For more on our slate, visit: <http://www.unitedfacultyforthecommongood.org>.*

Bio:

Marcus Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland College Park (UMD). Prior to joining UMD's faculty, he has an assistant professor at the City University of New York, Baruch College and member of the PSC CUNY, Baruch College chapter. Marcus is also a member of Higher Education Labor United, where he has served as the UMD local rep since Fall 2022. As an untenured member of the UMD faculty, Marcus is deeply committed to challenging the system of continued labor exploitation that allows a select few of faculty to concentrate campus resources, while the majority of campus faculty work under precarious conditions.

