Biography

Ernesto Longa has worked as a Law Librarian at the University of New Mexico (UNM) since 2007. He earned a B.A. in History from the University of Florida in 2002, J.D. magna cum laude from St. Thomas University in 2005, and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Washington in 2007. He serves as head research librarian at the UNM School of Law and teaches Applied Legal Research. His current research focuses on the Albuquerque Police Department’s policing of petty crime. Mr. Longa was actively involved in organizing United Academics-UNM, bargaining its first collective bargaining agreement, and drafting its first constitution. He currently serves as UA-UNM’s first President. For recreation, Mr. Longa enjoys practicing the drums, exploring the amazing slot canyons of New Mexico with his family, and playing soccer.

Candidate Statement

As a candidate of the Faculty United for the Common Good slate, I believe that higher education is in a crisis. This crisis is exemplified by mounting student debt, commodified education, growing attacks on tenure and academic freedom, and the emergence of a super-majority contingent workforce that is systematically devalued, excluded from institutional governance, and held in precarity.

The magnitude of the crisis across higher education demands a new approach in order to build the power necessary for the collective transformation of higher education. To that end, I believe that AAUP and all higher education workers should focus on a broad vision of wall-to-wall organizing in and beyond our campuses. This means tearing down the barriers that divide us to build union coalitions and form collective bargaining units across job categories.

I have shown a commitment to this approach as President of United Academics at the University of New Mexico (UA-UNM) which represents tenure stream faculty and contingent faculty on all five campuses of the University of New Mexico. Under my leadership, UA-UNM has defended the principles of academic freedom for all, equal pay for equal work, and the opportunity for all faculty to achieve security in their employment. In addition, I have participated in the formation of the UNM/UNMH Coalition of Unions. Through this coalition of unions, I have spoken out at Board of Regents Meetings and campus rallies in support of our graduate workers’ right to organize and form a union, rallied with our maintenance and clerical workers in their just demands for a living wage, and stood with construction workers in calling for improved safety conditions and the end of systematic wage theft. Our coalition of unions believes another, better university is possible.

Once elected to AAUP’s National Council, I will encourage all AAUP chapters and collective bargaining units to align with students, build coalitions with other employees in higher education, and organize with and for the communities to which we belong.