

Amy C. Offner
Delegate

Candidate bio:

I am the president of [AAUP-Penn](#) and an associate professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania. Over the last year, our AAUP chapter has worked to support union organizing drives and contract campaigns on campus; mobilized to improve access to family leave and academic freedom protections for non-tenure-track faculty; demanded fair pay for faculty with disabilities; and defended academic freedom and the right to protest in the face of a coordinated national assault by donors who would like control what can be taught and discussed in the United States. We have also helped organize the April 17 [National Day of Action for Higher Education for the Public Good](#), which we hope will lead to ongoing mobilization among higher ed labor organizations. Before becoming a historian, I worked as a union organizer.

Candidate statement:

My name is Amy Offner 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 because I have seen what rank-and-file caucuses and reform slates have accomplished in other unions, and because I admire the organizing undertaken by the other members of this slate. I hope that we can make the AFT a more democratic, powerful union capable of mobilizing members, defending the public mission of higher education, and building a more just and democratic society.

The [United Faculty for the Common Good \(UFCG\)](#) slate shares a conviction that higher education is under assault 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 boards of trustees, and wealthy donors, nor will it secure the increased funding for higher education that we desperately need to reverse the adjunctification of the professoriate and stop burdening students with spiraling levels of 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 and 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-and-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. Join us, and help us build higher education for the common good. For more on our slate and its principles, please visit: <http://www.unitedfacultyforthecommongood.org>.