

GRUF TIMES

A UNITED FACULTY NEWSLETTER

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TOGETHER WE STAND!

Thank you to everyone who has been attending the monthly Board of Trustees meetings. Our presence is having a powerful impact on college functioning, and we need ongoing attendance from faculty to continue making progress towards the concerns we've raised. We also want to highlight the incredible support from students in working towards these goals. Trades students, in particular, have been attending Board of Trustees meetings all year, and their actions have been critical to effecting change on campus.



HOW THE UNION WORKS FOR YOU

The UF Board has just approved the creation of a Hardship Fund, available to all active UF members. Members can request up to \$500 for as long as funds last, no questions asked. (We have budgeted up to \$5,000 for the remainder of the year for this benefit). Contact UFBoard@greenriver.edu for more information.

Please note that this resource is only available to union members, so if you're not yet a member, this is a great time to sign up! Send Allison Beckwith (abeckwith@greenriver.edu) your personal email address and you'll receive a membership form to join Green River's United Faculty Coalition.

NEED HELP?

Email us at our new UF Help address: UFHelp@greenriver.edu. Reach out with any questions and concerns and a union rep will get back to you shortly with answers!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Trustees Meeting:

Thursday, March 19th

UF Cheese and Crackers in SC
228, 3:30-4:30pm

BoT Meeting, ZC Board Room,
4:30pm (please attend the first
10-15 minutes of public
comment!)

Campus Climate Survey:

Responses due Tuesday, March
31

Look for "PACE Survey" in your
email!



GREEN RIVER STUDENTS GO TO THE STATE CAPITOL FOR LOBBY DAY

Green River College Student Government representatives attended Lobby Day at the State Capitol in February to advocate for the issues students deem most pressing at GRC. According to representative Yaëlle Dufour, these include appointing a student trustee to GRC's Board of Trustees; providing "free, high-quality two-year programs" through the passage of HB 1495; and improving housing access and affordability for students. GRC student representatives are doing an amazing job of advocating on behalf of the broader student body, but these are issues that we, as a faculty union, can help advance as well.



GRC Student Government Representatives at the State Capitol for Lobby Day (from left to right): Maria Elgart, Yaëlle Dufour, Mason LaMonica, Rain Lim, Lawand Muhsen.

GRC WELDING STUDENTS SHOWING UP

It's not only faculty who are concerned about the future of Green River College! Since June 2025, Welding students have attended every monthly Board of Trustees meeting to better understand how college structure and functioning is impacting their academic experiences. The UF asked welding students what brought them to these BoT meetings and why they keep coming.

Welding students described how safety issues in their department and a lack of responsiveness from College leadership initially brought them to the meetings. But they continued attending because, "the current state of the College and who runs it doesn't seem to be functioning well, and we needed to know why," one student said. A single mother in the Welding program noted how her graduation has been pushed back an entire year because of minimum enrollment thresholds and cancelled courses. "Tuition keeps going up," she noted, "but where's all that money going? How is it that courses that have students in them are being cancelled, especially when we have to have these courses to graduate?"

Students also expressed shock and dismay with Trustees' behavior at the Board meetings. "They criticize faculty for being unprofessional," one student said, "but it seems like the biggest source of unprofessionalism is coming from the Trustee members themselves. I was shocked at how much time Trustee members spend on looking at their phones – even when the student government representatives are giving their reports. It doesn't seem like Trustees have much respect for students or employees at the college." Another student chimed in, "it seems like GRC is really top heavy in terms of management – that needs to change."

The UF asked students to comment on their perspectives on unions and what unions mean to them. Students shared that, "changes in the economy are having profound impacts on families. AI is pushing out jobs, and at the same time we're losing important human skills. Working with our hands is a skill that we need to promote, and our ability to do that is strongest when we work together." Another student added, "there's power in numbers. If the people in charge aren't serving the institution, the only way we can change that is by all coming together."

These are such powerful insights, and the Welding students' ongoing presence at BoT meetings certainly had an impact on the College's recent leadership changes. THANK YOU WELDING STUDENTS! We are always more effective when we act together. Let's keep showing up for one another: this is how positive change happens!