

Gordon Lafer:

I'm a faculty member at the UO's Labor Education and Research Center and have been involved in the union since the early days of organizing. I want to strengthen and secure the status of non-tenure track faculty, and to protect tenure-track faculty against the profoundly anti-intellectual "metrics" that try to collapse things like intellectual curiosity, originality, subtlety and rigor to formulas that can be wielded by administrative accountants rather than relying on the judgment of actual scholars about their own fields. I also would like to be part of faculty formulating our own positive vision of how we think the university should run - both what defines fair working conditions for us and what defines quality and affordable education for students. One of the obvious questions for the AFT convention is how to conserve union resources if, as everyone expects, the union's budget is significantly reduced following the upcoming Supreme Court decision in the Janus case. Honestly, I'm not sure we should still be spending dues money gathering a lot of people at a coast hotel for an annual convention - so it's possible I'll end up voting for this to be the last convention of its kind. I'm sure the other candidates for delegate have similar concerns, so whoever ends up going I hope we can send a strong delegation of UO faculty.