

UFE ELECTION FOR OFFICERS (2020-22)  
Candidate Survey Responses

**Candidate for Chair**

**Shawn Hazboun**

**Past UFE service:**

Union Steward (2 years); Labor Management Team (1 year); 2019-2020 Bargaining Team (reopener)

**Academic/teaching concentration:**

Environmental sociology and social science research methods; core faculty in Masters of Environmental Studies Program

**Educational background:**

BA TESC 2003, MS Environmental Studies University of Colorado – Boulder 2013, PhD Sociology Utah State University 2017.

**Why are you running for this office?**

I am running for the position of Chair because I value the United Faculty of Evergreen and would like to continue to be of service to the organization. Through my work as a Union Steward and more recently as a member of the Labor Management Team, I have come to know the UFE as a vital resource for all faculty at TESC - an entity that helps us be more informed and empowered in our faculty roles, and that works exceptionally hard to ensure that our working conditions don't obstruct our ability to be excellent educators. If elected, I would be honored serve in the role of Chair and would work hard to carry out the valuable services the UFE provides.

**How do you see yourself supporting Evergreen faculty and the UFE?**

As Chair, my stated duties include coordinating UFE socials and meetings, meeting regularly with the Provost and Agenda Committee, and facilitating the Stewards Council, Labor Management Team, and Bargaining Team. Beyond these stated functions, I would also dedicate myself to facilitating increased communication, transparency, and education across campus regarding the functioning and purpose of the UFE. My goal would be that all faculty, whether or not they be a UFE member, understand what the UFE does and know that we are here to support any faculty with workplace concerns.

Looking to the year ahead, we are in the midst of an unprecedented time at TESC, with many challenges yet to come. I predict that the dual crises of enrollment and the global pandemic mean that the UFE will be as important as ever in the years ahead, as a vector for faculty voice and as the entity that negotiates the terms of our work in these truly trying times.

## Candidate for Vice-Chair

### Laurie Meeker

#### **Past UFE service:**

UFE Coordinating Committee, Communications Coordinator, 2014-present

UFE Steward 2006-Present

UFE Bargaining Team 2017-Present (2018-21 CBA)

UFE Bargaining Team 2014-15 (2015-17 CBA)

UFE Chair, 2008-2014

UFE Bargaining Team 2013-14 (2014-15 CBA)

UFE Bargaining Team 2010-2012 (2012-14 CBA)

UFE Bargaining Team 2006-2008 (2008-11 CBA)

#### **Academic/teaching concentration:**

Film Studies, Documentary Studies, Film/Video production, media studies

#### **Educational background:**

Master of Fine Arts, Film Production, Department of Theatre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver B.C., Canada, May 1985

Bachelor of Arts, dual major in Film Production/Still Photography, Department of Cinema and Photography, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, May 1980

#### **Why are you running for this office?**

I am interested in continuing to serve the UFE as a member of the Coordinating Committee. The primary duty of the Vice Chair is to assist the Chair, and I will be happy to do that in terms of supporting the new Chair's vision for taking the UFE forward while offering some institutional history and memory if requested. As a member of the original organizing team and first president of the UFE I can provide that historical perspective, yet I'm interested in supporting ways in which we can change and grow as a union. Another duty of the Vice Chair is to maintain the membership records, and while I have already been assisting in that work, I look forward to both clarifying those records and to recruiting new members.

#### **How do you see yourself supporting Evergreen faculty and the UFE?**

As a member of the Bargaining Team since 2006 I bring experience and long-term perspective to the bargaining process and to the Coordinating Committee. The CBA has been a tool for keeping as much of the original vision for Evergreen alive – narrative evaluations, multi-quarter team taught, full-time academic programs, 25:1 faculty/student ratios, and commitments to teaching students at various levels of their academic careers. We've also made gains in better pay and job security for adjuncts, and defended a substantial medical leave policy. All of these foundational working conditions could be threatened in the next bargain.

We find ourselves in extraordinary and unprecedented times – we were grappling with a period of declining enrollment when a worldwide pandemic hit our state and suddenly altered our working conditions. Faculty had to shift to remote, online learning, and face an uncertain future related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Evergreen pedagogical values and working conditions mentioned above are only a partial list of the things in our Contract worth fighting for,

and I am ready to work with a team who will do our best to keep Evergreen alive, even as significant changes emerge and need to be considered.

## **Candidate for Communications Coordinator**

### **Julie Russo**

#### **Past UFE service:**

2017-present / Coordinating Committee (Member-at-Large)

2017-2018 / Bargaining Team

2016-2017 / Union Steward

#### **Academic/teaching concentration:**

Media Studies

#### **Educational background:**

PhD (2010) - Brown University, Department of Modern Culture and Media

January 2010-June 2011 - Acting Assistant Professor, Film and Media Studies Program, Department of Art and Art History, Stanford University

2013-present - Member of the Faculty, The Evergreen State College

#### **Why are you running for this office?**

I have committed my service to the UFE for most of my time at Evergreen because I believe a strong union and solidarity with workers is vital in difficult times. Advocating for well supported and equitable working conditions for faculty is essential to the success of our students and our institution. I deeply value the mentoring and leadership opportunities I have received over the past four years as a UFE officer, and I'm eager to continue this journey as Communications Coordinator. As a media scholar and creator, I'm interested in and comfortable with the tasks involved in maintaining an informative and navigable website as the online home of our organization. I'm also dedicated to enhancing the communication between the union and faculty we represent on our campuses. With the college facing extreme scarcity and ongoing crises, our collective power is all the more important, and I am energized to contribute to this work.

#### **How do you see yourself supporting Evergreen faculty and the UFE?**

I will explore ways the union leadership can keep in contact with faculty about concerns and our responses under both normal and remote scenarios. Given that our working conditions are currently disrupted and in flux, ongoing communication is especially important. Looking ahead, I hope to develop a communication plan for the next bargaining cycle that provides as much transparency as the confidentiality of the process allows. I will ensure that the UFE website continues to be an updated source of news and information. And in general, as a member of the UFE Coordinating Committee, I will strive to represent and promote the interests of all faculty, including adjuncts and those outside of Oly Day, during the upcoming challenges and transformations facing our college.

## Candidate for Treasurer

### Marla Elliott

**Past UFE service:**

A previous term as treasurer, served as a steward before that.

**Academic/teaching concentration:**

EWS, performing arts

**Educational background:**

M.F.A. 1978, drama, the University of Washington, Seattle WA; B.F.A. 1974, theatre, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

**Why are you running for this office?**

I feel good about the job I've been doing as Treasurer, and I'd like to continue. I have a system. I do our annual reporting to the IRS; I receive and deposit our dues checks from the WEA; I keep our checkbook balanced and write checks for our expenses; I draft our annual budgets.

**How do you see yourself supporting Evergreen faculty and the UFE?**

By continuing to make sure that the UFE's finances are clear, stable, and low-drama. Also by continuing to participate in CC and steward council meetings and discussions.

## Candidate for Stewards Council Coordinator

### Leslie Flemmer

**Past UFE Service:**

Steward 2016-present

Member since 2012

**Academic/teaching concentration:**

Teacher Education, English Language Learning Endorsement, Critical Pedagogy, Qualitative Research Methods

**Educational background:**

Ph.D., Education, Culture & Society, University of Utah, 2008

M.Ed., Utah State University, 1999

B.A., Major: History; Minor: Speech Communication, University of Utah, 1995

Teacher certification (Utah): Middle & Secondary History & Speech Communication

**Why are you running for this office?**

I want to continue to give service to the UFE; and through the Stewards Council, ensure ongoing and continual support of the varied faculty that make up the membership including: EWS, Tacoma, adjuncts/contingent faculty, graduate programs, continuing faculty.

**How do you see yourself supporting Evergreen faculty and the UFE?**

I feel there is much outreach we have done and can still do to ensure faculty are seen, heard and collectively supported through our strong network and community. Our council has a lot of talent, skills and creativity to solve problems and enact changes that improve our faculty's lives and learning communities. Our collective voices continue to create an academic environment where our teaching, research, and collaborations are valued and illuminated through the stewards council. I look forward to continuing to invite the stewards to participate across campus as we work to support our UFE leaders and the bargaining unit.

**Candidates for Member-At-Large****Judith Gabriele****Past UFE service:**

Coordinating Committee – At Large position, last 2 years; prior to that Steward

**Academic/teaching concentration:**

French Language and Cultural Studies

**Educational background:**

BA –Education + Teacher's Certificate - Seattle Pacific University

BS – Nursing Degree – Seattle University

MA French Language – Middlebury – Paris program

**Why are you running for this office?**

To be able to contribute to discussions and equity for adjunct faculty

To be part of a governance group who works intensely on equity, better working conditions for faculty and that has a vision for social justice. To be part of a group that is the most 'CARING, SUPPORTIVE COLLEAGUES' ON CAMPUS!!

**How do you see yourself supporting Evergreen faculty and the UFE?**

In any way that I can. Being present and contributing my skills in ways that are appropriate. Certainly contributing institutional memory, being a faculty member for 29 years, plus my UFE experience since I have been a part of it since its first beginnings.

**Sandy Yannone****Past UFE service (role & years):**

Stewards' Council Coordinator 2018-2020

**Academic/teaching concentration:**

Writing, Poetry, Women's and LGBTQ studies

**Educational background:**

Ph.D., in English, University of Nebraska- Lincoln

M.F.A. in poetry, Emerson College

B.A. in English Writing and Literature, Wheaton College  
Candidate for J.D., Boston University

### **Why are you running for this office?**

Poet, political activist, journalist, educator Muriel Rukeyser wrote in 1949, “In time of crises, we summon all our strength.” She was writing about poetry in times of political unrest, but obviously I find the same to be true in a global pandemic that does test every fiber of our social, cultural, political, economic, psychological well-being.

From my work with the UFE since the union began and holding a leadership position this past two years, I find it is vital to remain involved in the one campus group that I’ve witnessed pay attention to, respond to, and advocate for humane working conditions in challenging times. Being a Member-at-Large will afford me a bit more flexibility to participate in the next few years and also allows me to share my broad knowledge of faculty concerns gleaned from my previous governance at Faculty Chair and representative to the Board of Trustees.

Personally, staying involved with the UFE during these times will enable me to attempt to live up to these words by Audre Lorde: “When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.”

### **How do you see yourself supporting Evergreen faculty and the UFE?**

As mentioned above, applying the experience I’ve had in past governance positions and recent UFE involvement. I also represent a handful of faculty who categorized as Administrative Faculty. This will help keep a mindfulness of the different contractual obligations among faculty. I also welcome supporting the new Stewards’ Council Coordinator.

## **New Candidates for the Stewards Council**

Stewards currently serving who are running for re-appointment were not asked to submit responses. Stewards seeking re-appointment are: **Jon Davies, Grace Huerta, Miranda Mellis, Paul McMillan, Maria Isabel Morales, Brad Proctor, Carolyn Prouty, Liza Rognas, Thuy Vu and Anthony Zaragoza.**

### **Suzanne Simons**

#### **Past UFE service:**

Steward (mid-2000s)

#### **Academic/teaching concentration:**

Poetry/Poetics, Community Studies, Journalism

#### **Educational background:**

MFA in creative writing (poetry), Sierra Nevada College, 2016; K-12 Teaching Certificate (language arts, social studies, Italian), St. Martin’s College, 1992; MA, West European Studies, Indiana University, 1983; BAs, Journalism and Sociology, Indiana University, 1981

**Why are you running for this office?**

Evergreen is going through tremendous change, often with little authentic collaboration. I've been a supporter and member of the UFE since the beginning. Along with other newly-continuing faculty who were long-term adjuncts, we now have continuing contracts thanks to the diligence of the UFE, which consistently made it a high priority, demonstrating the power of collective action.

There is much more work to be done. The union is more critical than ever in protecting jobs, and supporting students and colleagues through collective power and voice. The union and its members – deeply committed and talented colleagues – are vital in order to hold administration accountable and emerge from Covid, enrollment drop, and other challenges to an Evergreen that is recognizable, vibrant, rigorous, and one that holds a creative, engaging, and affordable liberal arts education through team-taught interdisciplinary studies at its core, along with the other Five Foci and Six Expectations of an Evergreen Graduate.

**How do you see yourself supporting Evergreen faculty and the UFE?**

Participating regularly in steward meetings and activities, outreach to new faculty and faculty who are not members, and in other activities the UFE collectively decides to engage in.

**Steve Blakeslee****Past UFE service:**

None. Member since the founding of UFE.

**Academic/teaching concentration:**

Writing and literature

**Educational background:**

B.S. (environmental studies), TESC, 1986

M.A. in literature, UW, 1991

**Why are you running for this office?**

I'm increasingly concerned about the speed with which the college is moving toward implementing its "Big Bets" ideas, especially when these ideas seem half-formed at best (and when our Paths and FYE pursuits are still finding their feet). I want to help protect against an erosion of the faculty's role in the decision-making process, and against the imposition of new teaching requirements that are not in the long-term interests of either faculty or students. I don't oppose change per se—but I don't want to see genuine deliberation set aside because we're currently atomized and "thinking in an emergency."

**How do you see yourself supporting Evergreen faculty and the UFE?**

I would like to see the UFE return to its earlier practice of having stewards actively contact other union members to collect their thoughts and concerns. I would also like to help create more frequent and open forums for UFE members to actively debate and deliberate the issues that concern them. And I would like to add my voice to Stewards' Council decisions.