

2024 UPI Election - Chicago State University Chapter

Candidate Statements

Chapter President (Vote for one)

Lionel Kimble

No statement provided

Melany Puglisi-Weening

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as the president of the Chicago State University UPI 4100. Our union plays a critical role in ensuring a fair and productive working environment for faculty and staff. I want to thank our current leadership for pressing forward to negotiate raises and secure faculty development resources that will not only advance our careers but will ensure that our students will continue to receive an excellent education. As president, my goals are to:

- engage in productive negotiations with the college administration to make sure that the voices of all the faculty on campus are heard.
- work to build a strong community encouraging academic and social events that highlight the excellent work of the faculty and significant contributions of staff and students.
- address the questions and concerns of the individual members' and advocate for a fair workplace.

Chapter Vice President – Unit A

Gabrielle Toth

No statement provided

Chapter Vice President – Unit B (Vote for one)

Charita Barlow-Walls

No statement provided

Araceli Canalini

No statement provided

Maryse Nazon

No statement provided

Chapter Vice President – Unit B ASPs

Lolita Godbold

Thank you for the nomination to serve as the UPI, VP for Unit B ASPs. I would like to join in the work with my colleagues to continue with the outstanding work of the union. I have been most inspired by the level of dedication and commitment of the current union representatives. I have been the Director of Field Education at Chicago State University in the Social Work Department since 2011. I have years of experience in leadership roles professionally and career and personally. While at CSU I was the University Relations Chairperson for the Illinois Association of School Social Workers. I have partnered with my colleagues at other universities to advocate with state legislators for change. I am the head of a social organization dedicated to community service. I hope to have the opportunity to partner with the university community in the continued growth of Chicago State University.

Chapter Secretary (Vote for one)

Mohammed Islam

No statement provided

Gayle Porter

No statement provided

Chapter Treasurer

Jubilee Dickson

No statement provided

Chapter Representative to Local Executive Board (Vote for one)

Sarah Austin

No statement provided

Rasha Elhage

I am an Associate Professor of Special Education at the College of Education. I joined CSU in 2018 and have been an active UPI member since. In March 2023, when CSU UPI members decided that strike was the only path for a fair contract, my colleague Nathalie Szabo and I were asked to lead as strike generals. Additionally, this school year, I have been serving as the Executive Board member representative for CSU. I would like to continue serving in that capacity.

As a professional whose work is rooted in improving the quality of life of individuals and overcoming hardships and disabilities, my aim is to prioritize effective working conditions for all CSU UPI members and vote accordingly on policies, long term strategies and financial planning. My promise is to act proactively, with transparency and integrity, and be an ambassador and an avid advocate of CSU's needs and concerns.

UPI Delegates (House of Delegates) (Vote for eight)

Walid Al-Ghoul

No statement provided

Kapila Attele

No statement provided

Sarah Austin

No statement provided

Anser Azim

My name is Anser C Azim and I have been a CSU-UPI member since 2009. I wish to join as a house of delegate member to serve under the CSU-UPI elected president and with his/her other team members with honesty, truthfulness and in the interest of all union members. I am dedicated to ensuring that our genuine voices are heard. I believe we can achieve a lot through unity and teamwork.

Jacqueline Benchik-Osborn

No statement provided

Gabrielle Gomez

No statement provided

Louis McFarland

No statement provided

Maryze Nazon

No statement provided

Melany Puglisi-Weening

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as a member of the Chicago State University UPI 4100 House of Delegates. Our union plays a critical role in ensuring a fair and productive working environment for faculty and staff. I want to thank our current leadership for pressing forward to negotiate raises and secure faculty development resources that will not only advance our careers but will ensure that our students will continue to receive an excellent education. As a member of the House of Delegates I will actively represent the faculty interests at CSU. I understand that this is an important role and accept all the responsibilities that come with the position.

Mel Sabella

No statement provided

John Smith

John O. Smith has over 25 years experience in higher education and administrative leadership in academics and community organizations. His current position is Assistant Professor in the Chicago State University Department of Art & Design. Previous experience includes Associate Professor & Campus Dean at the Beijing Campus of the New York Institute of Technology International China Program; Professor at Oakton Community College in Chicago; and Tenured Professor at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He is active in research and scholarship with a focus on Design curriculum and pedagogy, presenting papers, lectures, and workshops nationally and Internationally. He works as practicing designer, artist, and art director. He also has extensive experience in leadership for community organizations, chairing committees/boards, managing budgets, planning and funding projects conferences, exhibitions, and events.

Gabrielle Toth

No statement provided

Yashika Watkins

Dr. Yashika Watkins holds a PhD in Public Health Sciences and a Master's in Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a full Professor in the Department of Public Health, College of Health Sciences & Pharmacy at Chicago State University (CSU). At CSU, she is the MPH Program Coordinator and Assessment Coordinator, Vice-President of Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Rules and Operation Committee member, member of the Council of Illinois University Senates, and she serves on numerous committees University, College, and Departmental Committees. She is a member of the Movement is Life Leadership Committee and her research is focused on reducing disparities in colorectal cancer, osteoarthritis, and end-of-life care for dementia caregivers. I am excited to serve as a delegate to the UPI House of Delegates as this new role would allow me to represent CSU in the legislative and policy making process within the Union.

CSU UPI (additional) Candidate Statements

CSU UPI Vice President Unit B

Maryse Nazon

As a unit B faculty member for over twenty-three years, I know our faculty's opportunities and challenges. Service, advocacy, research, and self-development are the hallmarks of my tenure at the university. I desire to advocate strongly for and serve all faculty so our concerns and contributions can receive proper consideration. My experiences can help us maintain a strong membership as we support one another. I am excited about this opportunity and want to thank you for your consideration.

CSU UPI Delegates (House of Delegates)

Kapila Rohan Attele

I am honored to have been nominated to represent you in the House of Delegates. As a member of our vibrant community, I am deeply committed to the principles that bind us together: our *belief* in the communities we serve; we the faculty *are* the University, and the pivotal role of shared governance in how we are governed.

Complementing the Faculty Senate, our Union is a powerful vehicle for change, working collaboratively with stakeholders to make the University the cultural and academic epicentre of the South Side. Together, we will bring innovative ideas to fruition and steadfastly advocate for the University to reach its full potential. I would be a strong advocate promoting our collective interests, well-being, and success, and I will ensure that our voices are heard and respected in all decisions that affect us and the institution.

I appreciate your consideration.

Mel Sabella

I am honored to be nominated to serve as a member of the Chicago State University UPI 4100 House of Delegates. I have been a faculty member at CSU for over 23 years and strongly believe in the mission of our university and the importance of a strong union in fostering the best possible learning environments for our students and the best possible work environments for our staff and faculty. I am excited about the possibility to collaborate and co-think with others around these efforts.

UPI Local 4100 (additional) Candidate Statement

IFT/AFT Convention Delegate (CSU)

Natalie Szabo

I joined the faculty at Chicago State University and became a UPI member in fall 2020. This past school year the chapter at CSU was forced *out of our classrooms and into the streets* during a 10-day strike. I served as one of the Strike Generals, and I worked with the IFT, AFT, and the Local chapter to manage picketing, demonstrations, and more.

As a member of the UPI House of Delegates, I promise to be an active member and use my time to make positive change, create an equitable contract, provide transparency, and participate in board meetings. I will make recommendations to the executive board that keep the CSU mission and our members at the forefront of all decision making. I would be honored to serve as a union delegate to help maintain, uphold, and create an equitable and fair working environment and contract for all members.