



**UNIVERSITY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
LOCAL 3837  
AFT/AFT CT/ AFL-CIO  
CONSTITUTION**

Constitution of The UHP Local 3837

Revised April 14, 2023

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## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

This organization shall be known as University Health Professionals (UHP) Local 3837, AFT (American Federation of Teachers), AFT CT (American Federation of Teachers- Connecticut) AFL-CIO; affiliated with the AFT Healthcare, AFT Public Employees, the Greater Hartford Labor Federation (GHLF), and the Bristol Labor Federation (GBLF), and the Eastern CT Area Labor Federation (ECALF).

## **ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Local shall be:

- Section 1. To promote and protect the professional, social, and economic welfare of the professional staff of the UConn Health.
- Section 2. To obtain for professional employees all of the rights and privileges to which they are entitled in a free society, and to fight all forms of bias, due to age, race, creed, sex, and social, political, or economic status, national origin, or sexual orientation.
- Section 3. To promote the sound educational advancement of the professional employee of UConn Health.
- Section 4. To improve standards for professional employees by promoting better preparation, encouraging relevant in-service training, and securing the working conditions essential to the best performance of the professional service.
- Section 5. To seek means for the improvement of the quality of health care available.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1. Membership in the Local shall be open to all members of the professional staff of UConn Health who have not been excluded from the Bargaining Unit.
- Section 2a. A member in good standing is defined as one who has authorized membership and has paid dues as stipulated in Article X and Article XVI, or Article III, Section 2b of this Constitution. Each member in good standing is entitled to one vote on any issue presented for consideration at a meeting of the Local or by a general mailing to the membership.

- Section 2b. Any member in good standing who has left UConn Health to take a position with any of the organizations in Article I, shall maintain his/her status as a member in good standing. Annual dues shall be 1% of the average base salary of the Bargaining Unit.
- Section 3. In jurisdictions where there is no local, any worker or Bargaining Unit member who has retired from UConn Health or who has been laid off or who is on an unpaid leave or who has left UConn Health for any reason may be admitted as Associate Member without voting rights or the right to hold office, but with the right to participate in benefits such as insurance, travel, discount programs, and local publications. The dues for Associate Members shall be \$25.00 per year.
- Section 4. No discriminations whatsoever shall ever be shown toward individual members or applicants for membership because of age, race, sex, religious faith, political acts or beliefs, or sexual orientation.

#### **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

- Section 1. The following officers of the Local shall be elected triennially commencing March 2020 by an electronic or ballot vote of the membership: President, First Vice President for Collective Bargaining, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President for Political Activities, Vice President for Membership Activities, and Vice President for Communication.
- The following Officers shall be elected triennially commencing March 2019: Vice President Tier I (salaried employees), Vice President Tier II (hourly employees), Chief Steward, and Vice President for Community Outreach.
- The actions of all Officers shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. No individual Officer shall hold more than one office.
- Section 2. Membership in good standing is required to hold office. The Vice President Tier I must be a Tier I (salaried) employee, the Vice President Tier II must be a (Tier II) hourly employee, and the Chief Steward must be a Steward with superseniority.
- Section 3. Nominations of Officers shall be submitted to the Elections Committee by February 1. The Elections Committee shall accept any nomination by written petition containing at least ten signatures of members in good standing. Notice shall be provided to the membership at least fifteen days

prior to the Elections Committee meeting that nominations will be in order.

Notice of nominees accepted and election date shall be provided to the membership at least fifteen days prior to the date the election is held.

In the event that an Officer position receives no nomination, the new Executive Committee (beginning the following July 1<sup>st</sup>) shall appoint, at the first Executive Committee meeting by majority vote, a Member in Good Standing (that meets all criteria listed in Article IV, Section 2, if applicable) to the Officer position for the term of one year (ending June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year). This Officer position will participate in the next regularly scheduled election, with the winner serving the duration of the original term. The election for this Officer position will then return to its regularly scheduled election year.

In a year in which there is no regularly scheduled Officer election, the Executive Committee may, at its discretion, open nominations for a special election for the appointed Officer's position.

Section 4. Electronic or paper ballots shall be prepared by the Elections Committee stating, in alphabetical order, the names of each candidate in descending order of the office as indicated in Article V. Information on the ballots shall be limited to each candidate's name and position sought.

Officer elections shall be held between February 15 and April 30 commencing in 2006.

Electronic/online balloting will be available online for five working days, a 24-hour period each day, during election dates determined by the Elections Committee. Paper absentee ballots will be made available for a minimum of five business days (Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Paper balloting shall close by the end of the last business day prior to the start of electronic online voting.

If the Elections Committee opts to use paper ballots to collect votes instead of electronic/online balloting, the balloting shall be made available for three working days during the election dates determined by the Elections Committee. For elections by paper ballots, absentee ballots will be made available for five business days prior to paper ballot voting.

Voting locations and times will be determined by the Elections Committee and then approved by the Executive Committee.

The candidates receiving the most number of votes cast shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie of the top vote getters, a runoff election

between them will be held no later than 60 days following the original election.

Section 5. Officers shall be installed on July 1 and given the Oath of Office.

Section 6. As an Officer of University Health Professionals, Local 3837 of AFT, AFT CT, AFL-CIO, I am committed to providing the best of service in the most effective manner to the members of our Union.

I will abide by the conditions set forth in the UHP Constitution and the constitutions of all affiliated organizations.

I will maintain the strictest of ethical and moral standards and avoid conflict of interest and impropriety.

I will guarantee openness, honesty, and an accessible democratic process in all union activity.

I will uphold and abide by all policies, standards, programs, and plans developed and approved through the organizational process of our Union.

I will do all in my power to work for, and with, the working women and men in our state and nation to improve the lives and livelihood of working people and their families.

To the above I do proudly and sincerely swear.

## **ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. President: The president shall have general executive control of the Local, shall preside at Executive Committee meetings and shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to this office.

The President shall delegate specific responsibilities to individuals and issue-related ad hoc committees in pursuance of the purpose of the Local. The President shall represent the Local with the University administration and University governing bodies. The actions of the President shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The President shall also serve as a delegate to any council, conference or convention that allows representation of union locals.

Section 2. First Vice President for Collective Bargaining: The First Vice President for Collective Bargaining, in the absence or disability of the President, shall become acting President, assuming for the time the functions, duties, and prerogatives of said office. The First Vice President for Collective Bargaining shall serve as a voting member of all committees.

The First Vice President for Collective Bargaining shall be responsible for maintaining the internal structure and organization of the Local and for all duties delegated by the President.

The First Vice President for Collective Bargaining shall also be responsible for coordinating collective bargaining activities including grievances and negotiations in cooperation with the Chief Steward.

Section 3. Recording Secretary: The Recording Secretary shall conduct such correspondence as may be necessary, including return of ballots, electronic or paper, or petitions. The Recording Secretary shall keep on file a list of all members of the Local; shall keep records pertinent to the Local; shall keep all ballots, electronic or paper, from elections of officers and delegates on file for one year.

The Recording Secretary shall certify Delegate credentials and submitted resolutions, and shall chair the Elections Committee.

Section 4. Treasurer: Shall supervise the collection of dues/fees and act as custodian of all monies in the possession of the Local; shall keep accurate records of all receipts and disbursements; shall keep office expenditures; shall process payroll for office staff and officers; shall have access and review bi-weekly time reports of all released Officers; shall disburse the funds as directed by the Local, and shall report current budget and audit information at the Annual UHP Business Convention or by appointment at the request of any member.

The Treasurer shall also serve as Chair of the Finance Committee and the Investment Committee.

In addition, the Treasurer shall serve as non-voting Chair of the Competition Subcommittee.

Section 5. Vice President for Communication: Shall be responsible for coordinating the internal and external communication of the Local, including, but not limited to, the newsletter, flyers and mailings.

Section 6. Vice President for Membership Activities: Shall be responsible for coordinating professional issues for the Local, social activities, good & welfare, benefit packages and new employee orientations.

The Vice President for Membership Activities shall serve as Chair of the Social Committee and the Scholarship Committee.

Section 7. Vice President for Political Activities: Shall coordinate the political activities and legislative activities of the Local. He/She shall also work with other locals, elected officials and community organizations to further our legislative program. He/She shall be the Chief Delegate to all affiliated

Labor Councils. The Vice President for Political Activities shall serve as Chair of the Legislative and Political Activities Committee (LPAC) of the Local.

- Section 8. Vice President Tier I (salaried employees) and Vice President Tier II (hourly employees) shall chair the respective standing committees, be responsible for coordination of activities of the Union Representative Assembly, and ensure that issues of respective constituent groups are addressed within the local union structure.
- Section 9. The Chief Steward shall chair the Steward Committee and direct the duties of the Stewards. He/She shall coordinate all activities concerning grievances and negotiations in cooperation with the First Vice President for Collective Bargaining.
- Section 10. Vice President for Community Outreach: Shall chair the Community Outreach Committee and be responsible for promoting the interests of UHP to community organizations and businesses.
- Section 11. All outgoing Officers will turn over all files, records, and materials to the President, who shall be responsible for turning them over to the new Officers. The election for Officers will take place at the meeting following the meeting where a vacancy announcement is made, and as outlined in Article IV.
- Section 12. Vacancies: The Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill temporarily an unexpired term of six months or less of an elected Officer or any Delegate term by a majority vote of its membership. A membership meeting for nominations of the office shall be held no later than thirty days subsequent to a longer than six-month vacancy.
- The election for Officers shall follow the procedures outlined in Article IV.
- Section 13. Transition of Officers: When the position of President and/or First Vice President for Collective Bargaining changes hands, the incoming officer will be offered one week of union release before taking office, to ensure a seamless transition for the membership.
- When the position of Treasurer or Chief Steward changes hands, the incoming officer will be offered two days union release before taking office, to ensure a seamless transition for the membership.



## ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

For those standing committees that do not have a Constitutional Chairperson, the Chairpersons and Recording Secretaries shall be elected in the following manner: Nominations shall be solicited at a regular meeting of the committee in July of the even-numbered years. Elections shall be by a simple majority of the next regular meeting of the committee. The term shall be for (2) two years.

The following committees shall be active in this Local, and each shall be composed of members in good standing only.

- Section 1. Steward: To discuss and manage grievances and related problems on a regular basis. This committee shall consist of all stewards. The Chief Steward shall serve as Chair of this Committee.
- Section 2. Health & Safety: To monitor the work environment and to seek to improve working conditions.
- Section 3. Bargaining Committee: To receive recommendations from the membership at large regarding desirable Contract provisions to advise the Negotiating Team of the wishes and needs of the membership. The NEGOTIATING TEAM shall be composed of a limited number of persons selected from the membership of the Bargaining Committee.
- Section 4. Legislative and Political Activities Committee (LPAC): To inform and train the membership about issues of political activity and legislation.
- Section 5. Social Committee: To have fun and bring the membership together in situations other than those related to work in order to develop and promote a sense of community.
- Section 5a. Scholarship Committee: To develop criteria, read and rate scholarship applications, determine number and amount of scholarships to be awarded based on available/allocated budget.
- Section 6. Finance Committee: To develop a proposal for each annual budget of the organization. The organization's elected Treasurer shall serve as chair of this committee.
- Section 6a. A standing subcommittee of the Finance Committee will be the Compensation Subcommittee.

The non-voting Chairperson will be the Treasurer. Any Officer may participate as a non-voting member of the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee will be responsible for periodic review of all Officer and Delegate compensation, benefits, and reimbursable and fixed expenses

allocation. This subcommittee makes recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Section 7. Tier II: To provide Tier II (hourly) employees a forum to express specific concerns about their working conditions in addition to the UHP Contract.

Section 8. Tier I: To provide Tier I (salaried) employees a forum to express specific concerns about their working conditions in addition to the UHP Contract.

Section 9. Elections Committee: The Elections Committee shall be appointed by the Elections Committee Chair with concurrence of the UHP Executive Committee. It shall be comprised of voting members in good standing who are not seeking office, and should seek to be representative of all candidates seeking office. UHP Office Staff will be assigned to assist the Elections Committee Chair.

The role of the Elections Committee is to have general responsibility for the conduct of any election in accordance with this Constitution, including determining timing and dates for elections, accepting nominations, preparing electronic and/or paper ballots, ensuring that a fair election takes place, and resolving disputes, if any arise.

The Recording Secretary shall serve as Chair of this Committee. In the event that the Recording Secretary is seeking office, a member of the Executive Committee who is not seeking office in said election shall sit in as Chair.

Section 10. Community Outreach Committee: The community outreach committee will be responsible for working toward the goals of promoting the interests of UHP to community organizations and businesses. This outreach by the committee will include but will not be limited to: community organizations, local politicians and other organizations that also help give back to the community and are also willing to work to help support UHP when needed.

Section 11. Any committee formed which serves the special interests of only a specific segment of the union membership can claim membership of at least 10% of the total unit membership is eligible to be a standing committee as long as it continues to represent at least 10% of the total unit membership.

Section 12. A committee shall become a standing committee by simple majority vote by secret ballot of the Executive Committee membership present at a regular or special meeting, provided that notice of the proposed change of status has been submitted in writing, to the Executive Committee as was generally distributed among the Committee membership at least four weeks prior to the meeting at which the vote is to take place. A quorum for

this meeting shall be three-quarters of the Executive Committee membership. If the committee is dissatisfied by the action taken by the Executive Committee, it may appeal directly to the Union membership at any meeting of the Local, provided that a copy of the proposed change of status has been submitted, in writing, to the Executive Committee at least four weeks in advance of the meeting. Notification of a proposed change of status shall be distributed to the membership by the Recording Secretary, with the notice of a meeting at least two weeks in advance. A quorum for such a meeting shall consist of 20% of the membership in good standing. Passage requires a simple majority of those present.

## **ARTICLE VII. UNION REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**

There shall be established a Union Representative Assembly, composed of members in good standing only, whose function shall be to advise the Executive Committee of the view of the constituent areas.

- Section 1. Union Representatives will be elected by members in their areas in April of the odd-numbered years for a two-year term beginning May 1.
- Section 2. In the event of a vacancy, nominations can be taken at any time from the area, and elections held.
- Section 3. The Vice President Tier I (salaried employees) and the Vice President Tier II (hourly employees) shall be the Co-Chairs of the Union Representative Assembly.

## **ARTICLE VIII. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Local shall consist of the following:
- President
  - First Vice President for Collective Bargaining
  - Vice President for Membership Activities
  - Vice President for Political Activities
  - Vice President for Communication
  - Recording Secretary
  - Treasurer

Vice President Tier I (salaried employees)

Vice President Tier II (hourly employees)

Chief Steward

Vice President for Community Outreach

- Section 2. The Executive Committee shall administer the policy of this Local as set by the Local in situations where they cannot be set by the membership.
- Section 3. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall be the President of the Local.
- Section 4. The Executive Committee shall have the power to employ all personnel including an executive secretary, clerical help and other persons, on a full-time or part-time basis, as may be determined by the needs and finances of the Local.
- Section 5. The Executive Committee shall have the power to make contracts and incur liabilities which may be appropriate to enable it to accomplish any or all of its purpose; to borrow money for Local purposes at such rates of interest and conditions as they may determine; to issue notes, bonds, and other obligations, and to secure any of its obligations by mortgage, pledge, or deed of trust of all or any of its property and income.
- Section 6. The Executive Committee shall report activities at each regular membership meeting.
- Section 7. The Executive Committee shall meet regularly during the year.
- All items brought before the Executive Committee for action will be adopted by a majority of those present and voting.
- Section 8. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of this committee. On any action item requiring a vote of the Executive Committee for adoption, any two Executive Committee members may request the item be subject to a Super Majority vote of the entire Executive Committee.
- A Super Majority vote requires support by two-thirds of the entire Executive Committee. Super Majority votes will be by roll call and may be executed in person, by phone, or other verifiable communication methods, and individual votes recorded in the Minutes.
- Section 9. The Executive Committee shall exercise prudent fiscal management of the Union treasury and assets, shall adopt an annual budget, and conduct a financial review or audit every year. Budget and audit information shall be made available to the membership.

## **ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS**

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall meet regularly at a designated time and place. Meetings are open for observation purposes to the members-at-large. Members shall have the right to address the Executive Committee at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

Minutes, including attendance records of all meetings, shall be available to any member upon request.

Section 2. At least one regular meeting of the Local shall be held each year. All meetings will have a notification of at least 15 days. One of these meetings shall be the Annual Business Convention, which shall take place between February 15 and April 30 each year.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Local or special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time by order of the President, by petition of five or members of the Executive Committee, or by petition of 25 or more members of the Local. Any petition shall state the reason for the call, shall specify the date and location of the meeting at least fifteen days in advance, and shall be sent to all members of the Local or to all members of the Executive Committee for a special meeting of the Executive Committee.

Special meetings for the purpose of providing information to the membership which do not allow for petition of at least 15 days in advance will be posted on the UHP website, UHP Facebook Page, flyers on the designated bulletin boards, scheduled informational tables and through union representatives.

Section 4. The President and/or the Executive Committee may call emergency meetings at any time.

## **ARTICLE X. REVENUES**

Section 1. A member shall automatically lose rights when in arrears for more than two weeks. A member shall automatically be reinstated at such a time as he/she is no longer in arrears.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have the discretion to establish a fee-for-service mechanism to help defray expenses associated with providing representation to an employee who is covered by the UHP contract but is not a member in good standing.

## **ARTICLE XI. AFFILIATION**

This local shall be affiliated with, and participate actively in:

1. The American Federation of Teachers
2. The American Federation of Teachers- Connecticut
3. The Connecticut State AFL-CIO
4. The Greater Hartford Labor Federation
5. The Greater Bristol Labor Federation
6. The Eastern CT Area Labor Federation

## **ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at the Annual Business Convention, or at a Special Meeting called for the purpose of amending the Constitution. Either a vote of 2/3 of the Executive Committee or a petition signed by 150 members in good standing is required to call a Special Meeting. For the Business Convention, or a qualified Special Meeting, notification of the meeting date, time and location and proposed amendment(s) shall be distributed to the membership by the Recording Secretary at least 2 calendar weeks in advance of the scheduled date of the meeting.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments may be submitted by email, fax, or other digital or electronic means, provided each submission is signed by a member in good standing. In the event of a dispute about the authenticity of a proposed constitutional amendment, the burden of proof shall fall on the member whose signature appears in the submission.

Section 2. A quorum for such a meeting shall consist of 4% of the membership in good standing.

## **ARTICLE XIII. REMOVAL AND RECALL**

Section 1. Executive Officers of the Local shall be subject to removal for neglect of duty, malfeasance of office, immoral or unethical conduct or misappropriation of funds by a two-thirds vote by secret ballot of the membership present at a special membership meeting, provided that notice of the proposed removal has been submitted in writing to the Executive Committee or Union Representative Assembly and was generally distributed among the membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting

at which the vote for removal is to take place. A quorum for this meeting shall be a simple majority of the membership in good standing.

- Section 2. Removal of an Executive Officer may be initiated by a member in good standing by circulating a petition, which states the alleged offense, among the membership and has been signed by at least 20% of the membership in good standing.
- Section 3. A committee chairperson shall be subject to removal for neglect of duty, malfeasance of office, immoral or unethical conduct, or misappropriation of funds, by a two-thirds vote by secret ballot of the committee membership present at a special meeting, provided that notice of the proposed removal has been submitted in writing to the Executive Committee and was generally distributed among the committee membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the vote for removal is to take place. A quorum for this meeting shall be three-quarters of the committee membership.
- Section 4. Removal of a committee chairperson may be initiated by a committee member by circulating a petition, which states the alleged offense, among the committee membership and has been signed by at least 50% of the committee membership.
- Section 5. A Union Representative can be removed by a simple majority of people in their area by written petition citing reasons for removal.

## **ARTICLE XIV. PROCEDURE**

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern procedure in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with the Constitution of the Local.

## **ARTICLE XV. AVAILABILITY OF CONSTITUTION**

- Section 1. Three copies of the Constitution, and all future amendments, shall be submitted to the national office of the American Federation of Teachers.
- Section 2. Copies shall be made available to other affiliated organizations upon request.
- Section 3. The current UHP Constitution shall be accessible online via the UHP website. Printed copies shall be made available to members in good standing.

## **ARTICLE XVI. DUES**

1. The regular annual dues of UHP Local 3837 shall be 1% of a member's base salary, plus any increase in individual per capita tax to affiliated organizations after July 1, 1983.
2. The minimum yearly dues shall not be less than the affiliation dues. Part-time employees shall pay in proportion to their percent employed, based on their employment authorization.
3. The maximum yearly dues shall be set at the 1988-89 base salary of \$39,000 and shall be indexed annually according to bargaining unit increases.
4. The dues year shall be from July 1 through June 30.

## **ARTICLE XVII. DELEGATES**

Delegate elections shall take place between February 15 and April 30 in a manner consistent with the process of officer elections as outlined in Article IV, Section 4. All Executive Committee members who are in office as of July 1 each year shall be automatic delegates to the AFT Convention, AFT-CT Convention, and the Connecticut State AFL-CIO Convention.

1. Only members in good standing may be nominated or elected as Delegates to the AFT Convention, AFT CT Convention, Connecticut State AFL-CIO Convention, AFT-CT Delegate Assembly, the Greater Hartford Labor Coalition, the Greater Bristol Labor Federation and/or Eastern CT Area Labor Federation.
2. The Elections Committee shall have the discretion to accept nominations by email, fax, or other digital or electronic means. Such parameters shall be clearly stated in the call for nominations.
3. Delegates shall be elected by the following procedure:
  - a. Notice of the right to make a nomination shall be given a prominent place in a Local publication and/or bulletin boards.
  - b. All names in nomination shall be submitted to the Elections Committee by February 1.
  - c. Delegate selection will be ranked in order of total votes received.
  - d. The President shall be the Ranking Delegate.
  - e. After the election of delegates, the Executive Committee shall have the right to appoint delegates from among the members in good standing to fill any remaining vacancies.



## **ARTICLE XVIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business at all meetings of the membership shall be as follows:

Call to Order

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Open Comment of Membership

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

Old Business

New Business

Good & Welfare

Adjournment