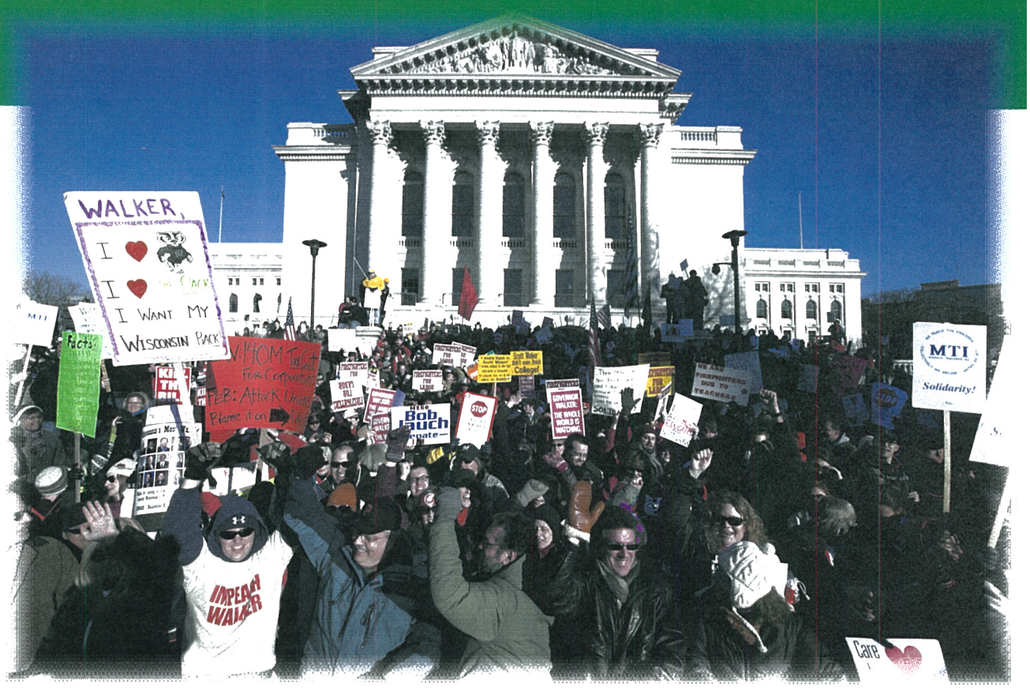
UNIVERSITIES UNDER ATTACK:

Lessons from the Battleground States



Tuesday, May 24th

3 to 5 pm

Browsing Room, Knight Library

Requests for professors' e-mails in Michigan. The end of public employee collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin. Efforts to curtail academic freedom underway in Arizona. Everywhere we turn it seems that public employees, including public university faculty, are under attack. Right here in Oregon there are twenty-six bills pending in the legislature that would radically alter our PERS system.

Professors in the battleground states are fighting back. The faculty at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse voted overwhelmingly to form a union in the middle of the battle over collective bargaining rights. The faculty union at Wayne State University has joined with the WSU administration to fend off the political request for faculty e-mails. Faculty in Florida, Ohio, and New Jersey are stepping up their efforts to defend their rights as faculty and public employees.

A panel of faculty from the battleground states and Oregon will discuss the national outlook for faculty rights and the efforts of faculty across the US, and here in Oregon, working to protect their universities, their profession, and higher education.

Cary Nelson, President AAUP

Cary Nelson is currently a Professor of English and Criticism and Interpretive Theory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is the author of numerous books, including *No University is an Island: Saving Academic Freedom.*

Michelle Fecteau, Executive Director Wayne State AAUP-AFT

Michelle Fecteau currently works for the faculty union at Wayne State University. Previous to her current assignment, she was a Labor Program Specialist at Wayne State's Labor Studies Center.

Darci Thoune, Professor at Wisconsin-La Crosse

Darci Thoune is an Assistant Professor of English at UW-La Crosse. She served on the Organizing Committee of the recently-formed faculty union, The Association of University of Wisconsin Professors.

Emily Plec, President Western Oregon University Federation of Teachers

Emily Plec is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies who recently taught an undergraduate course on the Rhetoric of Labor Movements. She has served two terms as a Vice President of AFT-Oregon.

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