

UNITED FACULTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNI's Faculty Union Sponsors Teach-In, in Defense of Higher Education *Faculty, Staff, Students, and Community Members Stand for Free Speech and Civil Rights*

(CEDAR FALLS, Iowa) – United Faculty, the University of Northern Iowa's faculty labor union representing more than 500 faculty members, invites all campus workers, students, and members of the community to join them in speaking out for a better, fairer, and more just future in higher education.

The UNI campus teach-in will be held on Thursday, April 17, 12:15-1:45 p.m. on top of Maucker Union's plaza. The event will be held inside the Union, in the Hemisphere Lounge, in case of rain or bad weather.

Speakers will include UNI students and student organizations, faculty, union leaders, and community leaders talking about the importance of standing up for rights in higher education, including the rights of international students to attend colleges and universities in the U.S. without the fear of extrajudicial government actions.

Teach-ins, a series of informal lectures or discussions on matters of public concern, have a long history in the U.S. The first teach-in was in 1965 at the University of Michigan, to discuss public concern over the Vietnam War.

"Today, the government is waging a war on higher education. We are especially concerned about attacks on free speech at UNI and on the nation's campuses. It's not only about free speech for instructors, but the freedom for students to learn without having their education censored by the government," said Christopher Martin, a professor of digital journalism and president of United Faculty. "We are also deeply concerned for our international faculty and students, who should have the freedom to teach and learn without the threat of abduction and deportation without due process."

[United Faculty](#), established in 1976, is the chief negotiating agent for the University of Northern Iowa's faculty, and is affiliated with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and American Federation of Teachers (AFT). The labor union represents more than 500 faculty members on UNI's campus.

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