

Welcome back to campus!! It is good to see all our colleagues. It has been over a year and a half since we have experienced our normal workday.

Changes in daily living, teaching, and campus life have left us all more isolated and anxious. The journey has been long.

When we thought we could see an end, the virus hits us again.

You have struggled to adapt, worked to best serve our students and colleagues, learned new things, and embraced change. Some things have been hard but some things have been invigorating.

Changes forces us to reexamine who we are, what we prioritize, and what we seek. You should all be proud of what you have achieved to make FHSU a stronger place to work, learn, and live.

As we move forward cautiously, I encourage us all to do what is right for our families, communities, and the entire FHSU family.

As a chapter, FHSU-AAUP continues to advocate for the basic principles of academia: academic freedom, shared governance, and workplace rights. Together we have not only survived but thrived.

Because of our ability to collectively bargain and our shared governance, the policies and positions taken by our state leaders have not impacted us as greatly as other universities.

Working together with administration as a unit to confront recent challenges is the envy of our peers. We must not forget that our MOA, our AAUP chapter, and our relationship with administration

have helped buffer our students, faculty, and staff from damaging changes in state policies.

The pandemic has damaged our economy, culture, and lives and has brought to light years of injustices and inequities. The way we function from here on will forever be changed, hopefully for the better.

Unfortunately, we have not seen the full impact of this remarkable year and a half. I encourage you to continue in the spirit of innovation, resiliency, and collaboration that has made FHSU so great.

We are stronger together. One faculty. One voice.

If you would like to know more about or join FHSU-AAUP, please visit our website at <https://fhsu-aaup.org/>