

Beth Torgerson, Incumbent, for UFE Board Member-At-Large

In my family, my parents were both actively involved in unions and cooperatives, so I learned the concept “We are Stronger Together” from an early age. Part of my consideration in taking the job at EWU was whether or not EWU was unionized. I joined the UFE as soon as I arrived, working with a representative from the UFE in writing up my first FAP, so I have been a member now for 16 years. I have served as a Board Member-At-Large since 2019-2020. I allowed myself to be nominated, in part, due to my desire to see more women in leadership roles within the union. Since 2019, in addition to participating in our meetings about various issues, including those related to budget cuts and those related to writing MOUs to protect faculty during the Covid pandemic, I have served on multiple Faculty Review Board (FRB) Committees. I have chaired one of these FRB Committees. In all of these cases, the Provost took the FRB Committees’ recommendations.

I feel I have contributed in a variety of ways to the UFE. I listen well, and I am both approachable and compassionate. I am open-minded and can see the larger picture from a variety of perspectives, which helps the board to think through some of the more complex issues. I care about people, I care about people being treated fairly and compensated fairly, and I care about creating and maintaining a supportive work environment, which, I understand, is a greater challenge as higher education comes to be more and more under siege. I care about crafting documents that protect faculty’s rights, and I care about revising such documents to keep them as up-to-date, as strong, and as effective as possible. When needed on behalf of faculty’ rights, I can be persistent, even stubborn. I see myself as a quiet activist who can help move a position forward through discussion and dialogue.

I am honored to serve EWU’s diverse faculty through this position, and, if re-elected, I would continue to serve to the best of my abilities. Thank you for your consideration.