

UMASS UNIONS UNITED



**BUSTING THE AUSTERITY MYTHS,
FIGHTING CUTS AND LAYOFFS**

UMASS UNIONS UNITED



Thank you for attending!

Please note that your microphone has been muted to ensure that those attending are able to hear the presenters.

The chat function is also currently disabled. We will be enabling that function during the presentation.

Please type your **name, union & questions about the presentation** into the chat. Moderators will be selecting questions to be answered by the panelists.

Sign in at: <https://bit.ly/UUUtownhallsurvey>

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If you have questions about your specific circumstances please reach out to your union leadership!

Professional Staff Union (PSU):

psu@external.umass.edu

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME):

local1776@external.umass.edu

University Staff Association (USA-MTA):

usa@external.umass.edu



Graduate Employee Organization

(GEO-UAW2322):

geo@umass.edu

Resident Assistant and Peer Mentors

Union (RAPMU-UAW2322):

info@uaw2322.org

Postdoctoral Researchers Organizing

(PRO-UAW2322):

info@uaw2322.org

Massachusetts Society of Professors

(MSP-MTA):

msp@umass.edu

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Joint statement from Representative Domb and Senator Comerford:

"UMass and our higher education institutions are the powerful and necessary economic engine that keeps our region running, and that engine does not run without UMass' workforce. Investments in this workforce and in our higher education system will be a crucial part of an economic recovery from COVID-19.

As our Commonwealth considers how best to emerge from this crisis, we'll be fighting for funding for our higher education system, and for UMass, and striving to do so at a level that ensures our UMass workforce has the economic security needed to continue this crucial work.

You have both our deep gratitude and our solidarity. Now and in the days ahead."

The background of the slide features a blurred image of a crowd of people holding up blue rectangular signs, suggesting a protest or a public demonstration. The overall color scheme is light blue.

Statement from Representative Natalie M. Blais

“As one of the largest employers in the region and one of the most respected public research universities in the nation, the impact of UMass Amherst can not only be felt in our local economy but also in the economic trajectory of our great Commonwealth. The University's mission of education and research are key to the Commonwealth's emergence from the COVID 19 pandemic and that mission cannot be achieved without its world-class faculty and staff. The state's financial support of UMass Amherst has always been important but never more critical than it is today.”

The background of the slide features a light blue gradient with a faint, repeating pattern of silhouettes of people holding up rectangular signs, suggesting a protest or a public demonstration.

Statement from Representative Paul Mark:

"Thank you all for the good work you continue to do during these trying times. I am honored to say that I am a graduate of the Labor Center at UMass, a dues paying member of the MTA, and a local legislator committed to supporting and advancing public higher education and opportunity for all students.

This is an important time for all of us and that means it is a time to stand up, speak out, and work together to preserve all that has already been accomplished. We must all take action and make every effort to avoid unnecessary budget cuts and to affirm that this State of Emergency cannot be used an excuse to force bad ideas upon our community.

We must all join together in solidarity and remember that when we stand together, we win."

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UMass Amherst Unions Represent 8,750

Administrative Staff, Assistant Residence Directors, Classified Supervisors, Clerical Staff, Custodial Staff, Food Services Staff, Ground Staff, Housing Staff, Librarians, Non-Tenure Track Faculty, Peer Mentors, Postdoctoral Researchers, Professional Staff, Resident Assistants, Security Staff, Teaching and Research Assistants, Technical Staff, Tenure System Faculty, and Trades Staff.

**More union members than at any
other workplace in New England!**

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Agenda

- Update on how austerity is impacting the whole UMass system and all of us
- Austerity Myth Busting
- Questions and Discussion
- Taking Collective Action—Please stay for the whole meeting so we can take action together

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Austerity:

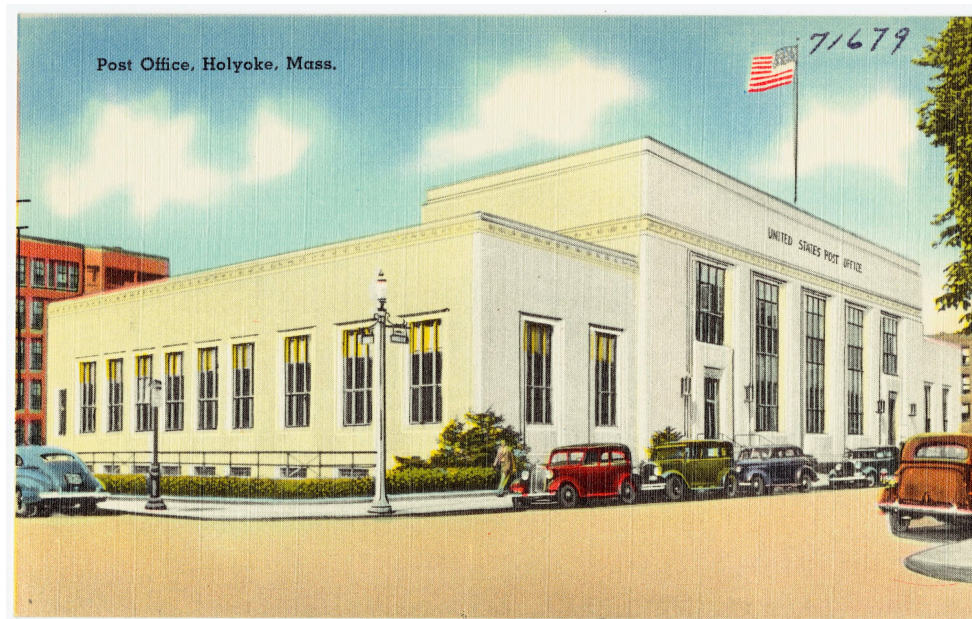
- A set of political-economic policies
- Goal to reduce government spending on public services
- State debt or low tax revenues often used as the excuse for making the cuts
- Creditors and credit rating agencies threaten state/institutions with bad ratings (and higher borrowing costs) to push austerity measures
- These policies are known to increase unemployment, deepen poverty, and increase inequality.
- Who profits from austerity? Lenders/Investment bankers & privatizers.
- The opposite of austerity is stimulus spending (public sector spending).

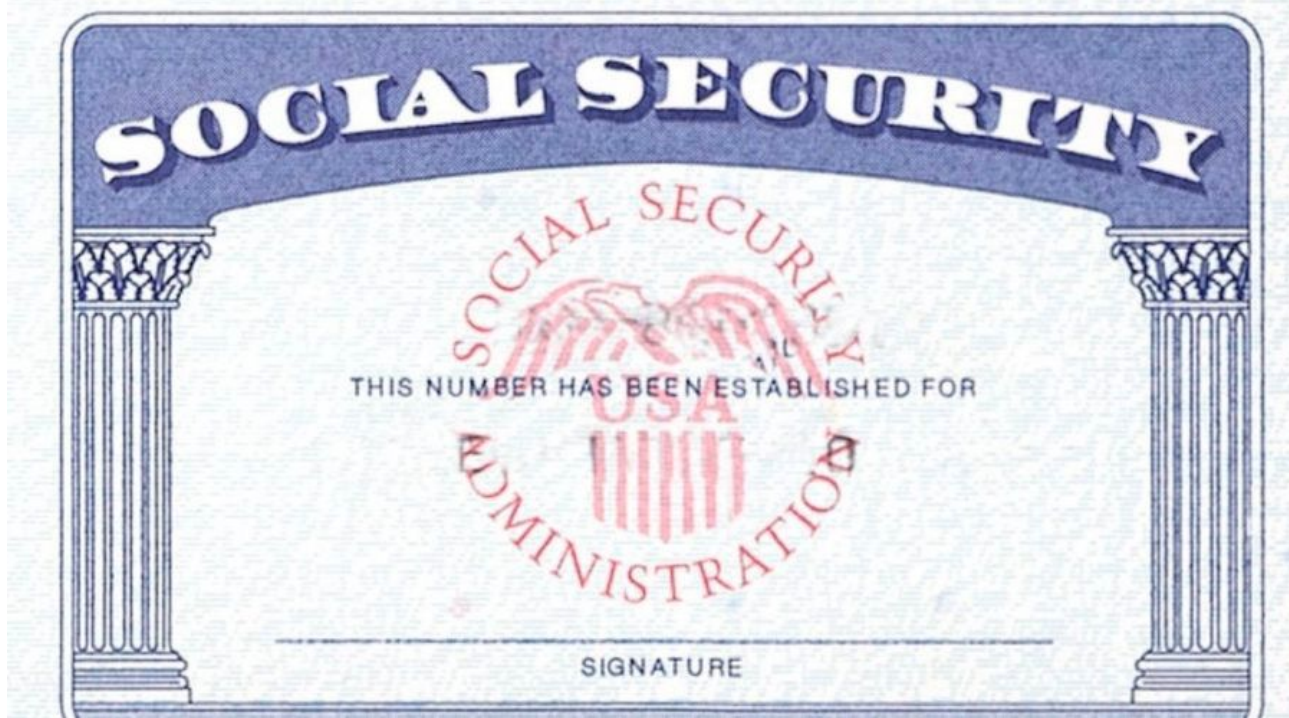


WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING



*There's no way
like the
American Way*









Austerity Myth Busting

Myth 1: We must have a balanced budget in FY20

The only body requiring us to have a balanced budget this year is the UMass Board of Trustees. We have run deficits before—that's what our campus reserves are for.

Myth 2: We have no money and we won't have any money

First, we don't yet know what next year holds: how many students will register? How much federal aid will there be for Massachusetts and UMass?

Second, there are other UMass funds that can be used: stabilization funds, savings from cancelling management consultants (which alone totalled \$140M last year), refinancing debt. UMass is not poor.

Myth 3: We must all share the pain

Cutting jobs and increasing unemployment is bad for everybody: for workers, for our families, for our communities, for our local economies, and for recovery!

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Questions and Discussion

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Moderators are reviewing questions and will select questions to be answered by the panelists.

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Taking Collective Action Right Now!

- **Sign on** to the UMass Unions United letter to President Meehan & UMass trustee board:
<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/tell-umass-president-marty-meehan-no-cuts-to-personnel/>
- **Send an email to** your state senator and state representative calling on them to fight for federal aid for public higher ed and for no public sector layoffs or furloughs
<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-our-state-legislators-umass-works-because-we-do/manage>
- **Post your ideas in the chat**: What creative actions can we do (while maintaining social distancing) to pressure President Meehan and our Trustees to keep all UMass workers employed?
- **8-11 tonight Station Marty Meehan is on WBZ**. Call in 617-931-1030 and ask [this question](#)
- Fill out the form to show your commitment to further action as needed

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***UMass Unions Unite!
Together We Win The Fight!***



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Let us know you were here! <https://bit.ly/UUUtownhallsurvey>