

August 10, 2010

Dear COCAL Brothers and Sisters,

East-West University (EWU) is a private “non-for-profit” institution located in downtown Chicago. It is a majority African American student university with approximately 1100 students. The university relies extensively on part-time adjunct faculty. Adjuncts teach roughly eighty-five percent of the four credit hour courses per quarter. For example, during the Spring Quarter 2010, there were fifty-six adjunct faculty members and only twelve full-time faculty members. There is no tenure at EWU. Adjuncts subsist on quarterly term employment contracts with broad restrictive and threatening conditions that leave them with no job security whatsoever.

Curtis Keyes, Jr., has worked for eight years as an adjunct professor in the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences. He organized the United Adjunct Faculty Association (UAFA) at EWU to give the largest workforce at EWU a safe haven to voice their concerns about the important, but very insecure and marginalized role adjunct faculty play at the institution. The UAFA crossed one significant avenue when on May 26, 2010, a petition for adjunct faculty union representation was filed with the National Labor Relations Board. Just one day prior to the petition filing, the Chancellor of the University, Dr. Mohammad Wasiullah Khan mailed a letter dated May 25, 2010 to adjuncts stating that no adjunct faculty contract would be renewed without first undergoing a personal interview with the Chancellor.

Controversy arose instantaneously over the manner in which the Chancellor conducted the interviews. Some adjuncts course assignments were abrogated before they even got the opportunity to schedule an appointment with the Chancellor while others who met with him were informed by their department director that Provost Madhu Jain ordered them to hire new adjuncts in their replacement. Consequently, a large number of experienced adjunct faculty contracts were not renewed including Keyes, Jr. and several other UAFA leaders. The repressive actions of the Chancellor and Provost demonstrate why the adjunct faculty at EWU needs union representation.

To make matters worst, EWU administration is fighting against adjunct unemployment compensation claims. The UAFA needs your help as we fight this worthwhile battle! The time is closing in on the start of the Fall Quarter 2010 and the majority of adjunct IEA union card signers have no clear reason to believe they will get class reassignments. What message will this send to the nation if Chancellor Khan and Provost Jain are victorious in their union-busting?

In addition to the adversity in front of the UAFA, it wants to be allowed to hold a vote in the fall on whether or not it will be represented by a NEA/IEA union at EWU.

Please help the United Adjunct Faculty Association at East-West University. We are in need of your help please. To contact the UAFA, you can reach its spokesperson Curtis Keyes, Jr. at **EWUAdjuncts@gmail.com**.