

Dear [DEPARTMENT] faculty,

For almost two months, graduate students across campus have been striking for a cost of living adjustment. Despite repeated calls from both students and faculty for the administration to work with grads, admin has refused to engage, while repeatedly threatening grads with retaliation. Last week, Chancellor Larive [announced](#) that all grads would receive 5 years of guaranteed funding (at the current pay rate), and that a “need-based” housing supplement of \$2500 annually would be instituted “until more graduate-level student housing becomes available.” These plans are severely flawed in a myriad of ways, and they do not even begin to address the severe financial insecurity in which grads currently live. Further, this message was coupled with the most direct and specific threat of retaliation yet, and grads immediately began to receive disciplinary summonses for their participation in the strike. Many grads were deeply insulted and angered by this, as it painfully showed us that the administration is currently unwilling to take grads' struggles seriously, and instead is committed to trying to threaten and punish us into compliance.

Prompted by the Chancellor's email, grad students held a General Assembly meeting last Thursday, and a poll taken at the meeting indicated widespread support for a full strike beginning on Monday, February 10. The intent behind the full strike is that it will not allow the administration to continue stonewalling us in the hope of simply waiting out the strike; a full strike will be something the administration cannot ignore, and it will bring about the quickest possible resolution. [A NOTE ON YOUR DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN THE STRIKE, AND YOUR OWN INTERNAL POLLS]

We are reaching out to you to ask that you vocally support striking grads. We understand that the strike will be disruptive, but this decision was not made lightly. We share your concerns about how undergraduate students may be impacted by this action, and will be working on ways to support our students during the strike. We also believe that the more disruptive the strike is, the sooner it will end, ultimately minimizing the overall impact to undergraduates.

Participating in a full strike takes grads to a new level of vulnerability, and many of us are planning to strike despite considerable anxiety and fear. Perhaps the most common fear among grads is fear of souring relationships with our faculty mentors. Please stand with your graduate students, and let us know that you support us. We are fighting only for the bare necessities we need to live here and do our work. We are fighting not only for ourselves, but for our peers, and for graduate education that is accessible to all, not only those with economic privilege. We want all of our peers to have the basic necessities for a stable life while they pursue their graduate degrees, including those of us who are marginalized based on race, gender, or sexuality; who are parents; who are supporting families back home; who are disabled; who are international students; who are first gen students; and all others who may be excluded from graduate education if we are not paid a living wage.

Please stand with us as we put ourselves on the line in this fight. We rely on you and we need your support, now more than ever.

Sincerely,

[DEPARTMENT] graduate students