
PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

RESOLUTION No. FA22 – R007



Support for UC Academic Workers on Strike

Author(s): James Nolan

Sponsor(s): Marisa Yerace, PGSG Alternate, English

WHEREAS, On Monday, November 14, University of California academic workers organized through United Auto Workers (UAW) began an open-ended strike across all ten UC campuses.^{1,2} 35,654 workers voted to authorize the strike, representing 98% of those voting. This includes 17,000 student researchers. The UC academic workers are demanding that UC ends their unfair practices, preventing them from earning a living wage (including cost of living adjustment), full childcare coverage, and covering the visa fees the UC system imposed on international students; and

WHEREAS, When academic workers at other universities organize into unions and win better working conditions and higher wages, it benefits academic workers everywhere else. For example, in January 2022, soon after union activity and success at Harvard, New York University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Columbia University, Princeton University increased graduate student fellowship and stipend rates by an average of 25% to \$40,000/year for doctoral candidates (read more)³; and

WHEREAS, Purdue graduate students are currently facing similar issues to UC academic workers. For one, as the cost of living continues to rise, our stipends have not kept up. In fact, considering real time spent working, most graduate student workers at Purdue University make less than \$13.44/hour! MIT's Living Wage Calculator estimates that this is the minimum for a single adult without kids to afford a minimum standard of living; and

WHEREAS, The Purdue Graduate Student Government is the advocating and legislative voice for the Purdue graduate student body.

¹ <https://www.fairucnow.org/>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/nov/12/california-university-strike-graduate-workers-pay>

³ <https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2022/01/university-largest-one-year-increase-in-graduate-student-stipend-rates>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Purdue Graduate Student Government supports academic workers on strike at the University of California.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PGSG will make a public statement to this effect, encouraging grad students to support similar efforts at our university, e.g. the Living Wage Campaign at Purdue (example provided in Exhibit “A”).⁴

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PGSG Senators will be encouraged to present this resolution to their graduate student organizations/associations (GSO/As), explain why it is important we support academic workers organizing at other universities, and ask GSO/As and grad students in their departments to publish similar statements in support of UAW-UC academic workers.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 16th day of November 2022.

DocuSigned by:

B5016D7B004B4A7 ...
President, PGSG

DocuSigned by:

9A293462337E40F ...
Senate Chair, PGSS

⁴ <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/living-wage-campaign-at-purdue-petition>

Certification

I, Mary Brown, Senate Clerk of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was regularly passed and adopted by the Purdue Graduate Student Senate of Purdue University, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 16th day of November 2022 by the following vote:


AYES (35): Aeronautics and Astronautics - Krishna Bansibhai Thakkar
Agricultural and Biological Engineering - Mike Sserunjogi
Agricultural Economics - Haseeb Daudzai
Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication - Bryanna Nelson
Animal Sciences - Sarah Innis
Anthropology - Olivia Palepoi
Biochemistry - Steven McKenzie
Biological Sciences - Morgan Chaney
Botany and Plant Pathology - Ricky Critchfield
Chemical Engineering - Annie Sun
Chemistry - Solita Wilson
Civil Engineering - Agustin Quinones
Computer Science - Jacob White
Curriculum and Instruction - Theodora Amuah
Educational Studies - Stephanie Contreras
Electrical and Computer Engineering - Somosmita Mitra
Engineering Technology - Pragatheiswar Giri
English - Marisa Yerace (Alternate, Acting Senator)
Environmental and Ecological Engineering - Kendrick Hardaway
Food Science - Anaël Kimble
Forestry and Natural Resources - Ken Yao Chong
Health Sciences - Sydney Stradtman
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture - Camila Ulloa Gomez
Hospitality and Tourism Management - Rachel Zhang
Human Development and Family Studies - Amy Loviska
Industrial Engineering - Utkuhan Genc
Languages and Cultures - Santiago Parra Giraldo
Materials Engineering - Daniel Sinclair
Mechanical Engineering - Meghavin Bhatasana
Nuclear Engineering - Stepan Ozerov
Physics and Astronomy - Shayamal Singh
Public Health - Sidney Smith
Sociology - Reilly Kincaid
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences - Brooke Rodgers
Statistics - Imon Banerjee

NAYS (0):

ABSENT (8): Biomedical Engineering - Michael Zimmerman
Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE) - Neha Shakelly
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC) - Antonia Susnjar
Management - Arindam Roy Chowdhury
Mathematics - Alexandra Cuadra
Political Science - Matthew Ellis
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation - Ralph Rivera
Veterinary Clinical Sciences - Ojo Oluwabunmi T.

ABSTAINED (13): Agronomy - Binod Gyawali
Aviation and Transportation Technology - Luigi Dy (Acting Senator)
Basic Medical Sciences - Siyuan Sun
Communication - Jonathan Martz (Acting Senator)
Comparative Literature - Marisa J Bryans
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) - Alaunie Smiley
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences - Austin Blevins
Economics - Talha Cakir
Engineering Education - Barbara Fagundes
Industrial and Physical Pharmacy - Pradnya Prakash Bapat
Nutrition Science - Qianyue Wang (Acting Senator)
Philosophy - Mary Brown
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) - Lauren Wilbanks

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of November 2022.

DocuSigned by:

DC61112437FD494...

Senate Clerk, PGSS

Exhibit “A”

Example Statement in Support of UC Academic Workers on Strike

[SEE ATTACHED TWO (2) PAGES]

To the Purdue Community:

On Monday, November 14, [University of California academic workers](#) organized through United Auto Workers (UAW) [began an open-ended strike](#) across all ten UC campuses. 35,654 workers voted to authorize the strike, representing 98% of those voting. This includes 17,000 student researchers. The UC academic workers are demanding that UC end their unfair practices, preventing them from earning a living wage (including cost of living adjustment), full child care coverage, and covering the visa fees the UC system imposed on international students.

We, the Purdue Student Graduate Government (PGSG), pride ourselves as being the advocating and legislative voice for the Purdue graduate student body. Purdue graduate students are currently facing similar issues to UC academic workers. For one, as the cost of living continues to rise, our stipends have not kept up. In fact, considering real time spent working, most graduate student workers at Purdue University make less than \$13.44/hour! MIT's Living Wage Calculator estimates that this is the minimum for a single adult without kids to afford a minimum standard of living.

It is important that PGSG and graduate students at Purdue support academic workers at other universities. When academic workers at other universities organize into unions and win better working conditions and higher wages, it benefits academic workers everywhere else. For example, in January 2022, soon after union activity and success at Harvard, New York University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Columbia University, Princeton University increased graduate student fellowship and stipend rates by an average of 25% to \$40,000/year for doctoral candidates ([read more](#)). Supporting academic workers at other universities, such as UC, supports ourselves here at Purdue.

As representatives of the graduate student body, we cannot stress the importance of not just words of support, but also material support. PGSG has passed a resolution, "Support for UC Academic Workers on Strike" to both declare our support for fellow academic workers at the University of California and donate \$100 from our discretionary fund to their [strike support and hardship fund](#). We encourage department graduate student organizations, other Purdue student organizations, and individual Purdue academic workers to donate to the fund as well.

We would also like to acknowledge efforts from organizations and grassroots student advocacy groups at our own university. [Grad Rights and Our Well-Being \(GROW\)](#) has been campaigning for a [Living Wage at Purdue](#) (\$31,200/year stipends for all grad students now and \$41,600/year by 2026) and [collecting stories](#) that express the urgent need for higher wages.

As always, feel free to reach out to us for suggestions and concerns. I, [Name], can be reached at [email].