
PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE



RESOLUTION No. SP23-R010

**Support for Temple University Graduate Student
Workers on Strike**

Author(s): James Nolan & Brooke Rodgers

Sponsor(s): Brooke Rodgers; Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, January 31, the Temple University Graduate Students' Association (TUGSA) began an indefinite strike in response standstill contract negotiations with TU administration lasting over a year.¹² TUGSA is a union representing 750 graduate teaching and research assistants and has over 450 members, 99% of which voted in November 2022 to authorize the strike. The TU academic workers are demanding a living wage and better healthcare coverage, leave, and working conditions;

WHEREAS, in response to the strike, Temple University has revoked tuition remission and stopped making healthcare payments for striking graduate workers.³ On February 9, the Philadelphia City Council passed a resolution calling on TU to meet TUGSA's demands;⁴

WHEREAS, on February 21, the TUGSA membership voted to reject a tentative agreement with TU administration.⁵ 83% of the union participated in a vote to accept the contract, and 92% voted to decline the agreement and continue the strike indefinitely. The tentative agreement included a stipend increase over four years, but TUGSA members noted stipends would still fail to meet a living wage in Philadelphia at the end of the four years;

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

¹ <https://www.tugsa.org/>

² <https://www.tugsa.org/s/Jan-31-Tugsa-Press-Release.pdf>

³ <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/10/1155762537/temple-university-grad-strike>

⁴ <https://temple-news.com/city-council-members-pass-resolution-in-support-of-tugsa/>

⁵ <https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/temple-graduate-union-votes-down-tentative-agreement/>

increased graduate student fellowship and stipend rates by an average of 25% to \$40,000/year for doctoral candidates;⁶

WHEREAS, The Purdue Graduate Student Government is the advocating and legislative voice for the Purdue graduate student body. The Purdue Graduate Student Government recently passed a resolution and made a public statement in support of the University of California academic workers strike in November 2022.⁷

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, PGSG supports academic workers on strike at Temple University, especially against retaliation from TU administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PGSG will make a public statement to this effect, at the discretion of the PGSG Executive Board, encouraging grad students to support similar efforts at our university, e.g. the Living Wage Campaign at Purdue.⁸ An example statement is provided in Exhibit “A,” which may be used at the discretion of the PGSG Executive Board when drafting the public statement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the PGSG Executive Board will send their public statement to the members of the Purdue chapter of the American Association of University Professors (aaup.purdue@gmail.com) to request they cosign the statement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the PGSG Life Team, PGSG Executive Board, and other GSO/As are asked to collaborate with the authors of this resolution to organize and host an event to raise money for the TUGSA strike fund.⁹ Due to the uncertain nature of strike timelines, the fundraising event should occur within 3 weeks of this resolution being passed by PGSS.

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 TU academic workers.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 8th day of March 2023.

DocuSigned by:

B5016D7B004B4A7...
President, PGSG

DocuSigned by:

9A293462337E40F...
Senate Chair, PGSS

⁶ <https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2022/01/university-largest-one-year-increase-in-graduate-student-stipend-rates>

⁷⁷ <https://purduegradstudents.com/wp-content/uploads/senate/legislation/final/22-23/FA22-R007.pdf>

⁸ <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/living-wage-campaign-at-purdue-petition>

⁹ <https://tugsa.betterworld.org/campaigns/tugsa-strike-fund>

Certification

I, Mary Brown, Senate Clerk of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was passed as emergency legislation and adopted by the Purdue Graduate Student Senate of Purdue University, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 8th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

AYES (44): Agricultural and Biological Engineering - Mike Sserunjogi
Agricultural Economics - Haseeb Daudzai
Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication - Bryanna Nelson
Animal Sciences - Sarah Innis
Anthropology - Olivia Palepoi
Basic Medical Sciences - Siyuan Sun
Biochemistry - Steven McKenzie
Biomedical Engineering - Michael Zimmerman
Botany and Plant Pathology - Ricky Critchfield
Chemistry - Solita Wilson
Civil Engineering - Agustin Quinones
Communication - Savannah Meier
Comparative Literature - Marisa J. Bryans
Computer Science - Jacob White
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences - Austin Blevins
Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE) - Neha Shakelly
Economics - Talha Cakir
Educational Studies - Stephanie Contreras
Electrical and Computer Engineering - Somosmita Mitra
Engineering Education - Barbara Fagundes
Engineering Technology - Pragatheiswar Giri
English - Christopher Barber
Environmental and Ecological Engineering - Aliya Edhe
Forestry and Natural Resources - Ken Yao Chong
Health Sciences - Sydney Stradtman
History - Secret Permenter
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture - Camila Ulloa Gomez
Hospitality and Tourism Management - Rachel Zhang
Human Development and Family Studies - Amy Loviska
Industrial Engineering - Utkuhan Genc
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC) - Antonia Susnjar
Materials Engineering - Daniel Sinclair
Mechanical Engineering - Meghavin Bhatasana
Nuclear Engineering - Stepan Ozerov
Nutrition Science - Julia Choi
Philosophy - Mary Brown
Physics and Astronomy - Shayamal Singh

Public Health - Sidney Smith
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) - Lauren Wilbanks
Sociology - Reilly Kincaid
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences - Brooke Rodgers
Statistics - Imon Banerjee
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation - Elizabeth Thompson
Veterinary Clinical Sciences - Ojo Oluwabunmi T.

NAYS (0):

ABSENT (9): Agronomy - Binod Gyawali
Aviation and Transportation Technology - Shantanu Gupta
Curriculum and Instruction - Theodora Amuah
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) - Alaunie Smiley
Food Science - Anaël Kimble
Global Supply Chain Management - Rohan Saini
Languages and Cultures - Santiago Parra Giraldo
Management - Arindam Roy Chowdhury
Political Science - Matthew Ellis

ABSTAINED (3): Biological Sciences - Morgan Chaney
Chemical Engineering - Annie Sun
Industrial and Physical Pharmacy - Pradnya Prakash Bapat

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of March 2023.

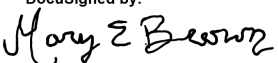
DocuSigned by:

DC61112437FD494...
Senate Clerk, PGSS

EXHIBIT “A”

**EXAMPLE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF TU GRADUATE WORKERS
ON STRIKE**

[SEE ATTACHED (1) PAGE]

EXAMPLE STATEMENT

To the Purdue Community:

On Tuesday, January 31, [Temple University Graduate Students' Association \(TUGSA\)](#), a union organized through American Federation of Teachers (AFT), [began an open-ended strike](#) since Temple administration had refused to productively engage in contract negotiations lasting over a year. Temple graduate student workers are demanding a living wage, healthcare for dependent and families, longer parental and bereavement leave, and better working conditions.

In retaliation, Temple administration [revoked tuition remission](#) and stopped making healthcare payments for striking graduate workers. For our own sake, academic workers at Purdue must support the right of workers at other universities to engage in concerted activity to win better working conditions. Stipends for Purdue graduate student workers also fall below local living costs. According to [MIT's Living Wage Calculator](#), the minimum living wage for a single adult without kids is \$33,654.40/year.

We, the Purdue Student Graduate Government (PGSG), stand in solidarity with TUGSA and all graduate student workers. On March 8, PGSG passed a resolution "Support for Temple University Graduate Student Workers on Strike," to declare our support for fellow graduate student workers at Temple University. Additionally, the resolution called for PGSG Life Team and PGSG Executive Board to collaborate to host a fundraiser event raising money for the [TUGSA strike fund](#). This fundraiser will take place on Friday, March 24 from 5 to 8 PM. Details of that event will be shared in a separate email announcement.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge efforts from grassroots organizations at our own university. [Grad Rights and Our Well-Being \(GROW\)](#) has been campaigning for a [Living Wage at Purdue](#) and [collecting stories](#) that express the urgent need for higher wages.

In support,

Purdue Graduate Student Government