



ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOWS FEDERATION

Dear Campus Community:

In the past year of bargaining, the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF) and University of Oregon administration have been unable to reach consensus in regard to the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement. With a GTFF strike pending, the Associated Students of the University of Oregon stands in full support of the Federation.

As the student government, it is our top priority to provide a voice for students on campus in order to ignite crucial changes that better serve student needs. Therefore, as representatives of the student body and members of this community, we are in solidarity with the GTFF in their struggle for a fair contract. Over the years, the ASUO has striven to meet the needs of our student community. We negotiate bus contracts so that low-income students can ride to class for free. We fund a Women's Center and Multicultural Center, a Childcare Subsidy to better support student parents, and Student Legal Services, who aid students in those most frightening disputes with rental companies, along with many other programs. We work to make living as a student less difficult for our sometimes vulnerable community, all on a proportionally minuscule budget when compared to that of the university's central administration.

Given this history, we were deeply disappointed to see that university administration is not interested in similarly striving to meet the needs of our GTFs. The paltry offers handed down to our GTFs have been thoroughly insufficient. Although it has been suggested that there are simply not enough funds, in the wake of Ex-President Gottfredson's million-dollar severance package, those words ring hollow. To state that this university does not have the funds to provide paid medical and parental leave to its GTFs is utterly unacceptable and suggests that there is a dire need to reassess our university's priorities.

For these reasons and many others, the ASUO asserts our unequivocal support for the GTFF. Yes, our classes will be interrupted by a strike, but in order for us to receive a quality education, we need to take care of our instructors. If our GTFs are sick, or

preoccupied with the stress of leaving their ill child at home, they cannot perform to the best of their abilities. As fellow students, we have a vested interest in what our GTFs experience, because we are dependent on one another. Although some will undoubtedly point fingers at the GTFF and lay blame for this period of instability at their feet, we know that it is the university administration that is failing their obligation to finally provide a wage that meets our community's cost of living—this is not so much to ask. As the GTFF continues to seek fair compensation for the work of its members, we should ask the question, who would deny such a reasonable request?

We call on other student organizations to join us in voicing support for Graduate Teaching Fellows.

In Solidarity,
The Associated Student of the University of Oregon Executive

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