



## The GTFF Enters Bargaining With The University of Oregon on November 22nd

This week, the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF)—the labor union representing all 1500+ graduate teaching fellows (GTFs) at the University of Oregon—will begin negotiating the terms of a new contract for GTFs with the University. The GTFF has defended the interests of GTFs at the University since 1976, and has striven in previous bargaining cycles to ensure safe, fair, and respectful conditions of employment for graduate workers.

Presently, the average monthly take-home pay for a GTF *still* falls well below the University's own estimate of the basic cost of living for a graduate student living in Eugene (\$1620.44 per month during the academic year). This causes many GTFs to take on increasing sums of student loan debt simply to make ends meet. The fees GTFs are made to pay *back to* the University each term, and in the summer especially, only add to the financial strain placed upon hardworking graduate employees. Moreover, many standard benefits extended to other public employee groups continue to be withheld from GTFs—such as major dental coverage, paid parental or illness leave, and safeguards against the nullification of signed contracts. In light of these facts, the position of the GTFF is simple: graduate employees deserve respectful treatment, industry-standard benefits, and a fair wage that covers the basic costs of living.

On Friday, November 22nd from 2:00pm-5:00pm, in Lawrence Hall room 166 on the UO campus, the GTFF will present its proposals for a fair wage, major dental coverage, and an improvement in the basic working conditions for GTFs at the University. This and all future bargaining sessions will be open to the public. The GTFF invites members of the Eugene and Springfield communities—whether affiliated with the University of Oregon or not—to support them in their mission to improve the basic terms of employment for graduate workers at the University of Oregon. GTFs contribute immensely to the mission of Oregon's flagship public university—in many cases being the first and most lasting points of instructional contact for the University's nearly 25,000 students. Join the GTFF in urging the University to treat and compensate graduate employees fairly and in accordance with their contribution to quality higher education in Oregon.

For more information, please contact:

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