

SEIU Local 503

University of Oregon Sublocal 085

Dear President Henry and the GTFF Executive Committee,

SEIU Local 085 and the GTFF have a long-standing relationship of standing in solidarity on issues we've faced together at the University of Oregon. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to publicly support the GTFF in your bargaining process. We believe in supporting the rights of all workers to organize and bargain fair contracts. We are proud to know that in May, members of the GTFF voted in favor of striking if you do not receive a fair contract during mediation.

We stand in solidarity with the GTFF as you begin the 2014-2015 academic year without a contract. We stand with you in asking that the University of Oregon provide paid medical and parental leave. In Article 40 – Sick Leave of our Collective Bargaining Agreement, Classified Staff accrue sick time on a prorated accrual system based on 8 hours with a 1.0 FTE. Our sick leave covers:

“..the employee’s illness, bodily injury, disability resulting from pregnancy, necessity for medical or dental care, attendance at an employee assistance program, exposure to contagious disease, attendance upon members of the employee’s immediate family (employee’s parent, wife, husband, domestic partner, children, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or another member of the immediate household) where the employee’s presence is required because of illness or death in the immediate family of the employee or the employee’s spouse or domestic partner.”

We believe that all of the GTFs should be entitled to paid sick leave. It is of benefit to the entire University to encourage workers to stay home when they are ill. We also support GTFs having a living wage that matches the local cost of living. We support all efforts necessary to ensure that the GTFs receive a fair contract. Along with our statewide SEIU Local 503, we champion paid sick leave for all, not just as a basic humanitarian act, but a good business practice, allowing a worker to take care of her or himself or an ailing family member without the stress and devastating hardship of lost wages or possible termination.

In it Together!!

SEIU Local 085 Executive Committee