



Graduate Teaching
Fellows Federation
AFT/AFL-CIO, Local 3544

October 24, 2014

This past week the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF) voted overwhelmingly to authorize their bargaining team to call for a strike if the University of Oregon's Administration continues not to meet the needs of their graduate employees. Starting Monday, a 30 day "cooling off" period will begin between both parties. During that time, the GTFF hopes the Administration will meet again with the GTFF to work out a final contract before a strike takes place.

Graduate Teaching Fellows (GTFs) do not want to strike; they want to finalize an equitable contract that prioritizes and values the work done by graduate employees every day on this campus. Specifically, the members voted for a bottom line that includes: (1) a 5.5% raise to minimum GTF salaries for each of the next two years to begin to close a gap between wages and the cost of living, and (2) two weeks each of paid medical and parental leave annually for every GTF. Yet the Administration has continued to prioritize profit over the health and wellbeing of GTFs and the overall quality of education offered at the UO. The University Faculty Senate echoed these sentiments this week when they passed a resolution encouraging the Administration to settle a contract that appropriately addresses the needs of graduate employees.

Over the next 30 days, the GTFF implores the Administration to reconsider its priorities and offer GTFs an equitable contract proposal that meets the needs of the graduate employees at the UO. The Board of Trustees has designated the authority to President Coltrane to manage bargaining with the GTFF. GTFs stated publicly where they stand on these issues. They hope that President Coltrane stands with them, their students, and the University community.

The GTFF Executive Board

Questions can be directed towards GTFF President Joe Henry via president@gtff.net or by calling the GTFF office (541) 338-0087.