



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL/DULUTH, MN - Since returning to mediation November 7, 2024, the Graduate Labor Union - United Electrical Local 1105 and the University of Minnesota have reached important tentative agreements around paid immigration leave, protections to ensure a respectful workplace, and increased healthcare premium coverage for dependents. We believe we are close to an agreement on leaves of absence and workplace discipline. Still, contract offers from the University have been severely lacking in two key facets:

1. The University's contract offer does not guarantee raises for **all** graduate workers in the first year of the contract; and
2. The University's contract offer does not provide any relief from student fees, which can number in excess of \$1,500 per semester for international graduate assistants, as a benefit of employment.

Our members have repeatedly made it clear that they will not accept a contract that does not contain a raise for all graduate workers and relief for graduate workers paying student fees. For this reason, the GLU Bargaining Committee has scheduled a vote from November 23 to November 26 asking for members to authorize a strike.

This is not a decision that the Union makes lightly. Graduate workers come to the University of Minnesota from around the world to perform teaching and research in the fields they are most passionate about. Withholding our labor is truly our last resort. Our members do not wish to sacrifice research, teaching, and their academic progress, but are willing to do so for a fair contract. Should our members authorize a strike, the Union expects to walk off the job in early December. GLU-UE Local 1105 will be entering into two mediation sessions with the University November 21 and 22 later this week. We are cautiously optimistic that continued good-faith negotiations will result in a contract offer that addresses our priorities of pay raises for all graduate assistants and relief from student fees.

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