Resolution in Support of United Electrical Local 256
Graduate Labor Union - UE 1105
Presented to the General Membership Meeting (GMM), November 19, 2026

Across the nation, institutions of higher education continue to claim that they are unable to afford to pay graduate workers a living wage, or provide the benefits workers need in order to live and work at the institutions that cannot function without them. Here at the University of Minnesota, we've seen this narrative start to form. The hundreds of millions of dollars of recently announced cuts sets the stage for the University to claim that they cannot afford to give us raises, or fund our healthcare, or meet us on any of the things that our graduate workers need.

But we are not isolated in this fight. Graduate workers around the nation are taking a stand to fight for our rights and protections as workers. Nowhere is this fight more exemplified than across the locals of United Electrical - who stand together to push for the Universities that we deserve.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, UE Local 256 has been hard at work organizing for a better contract. They too have faced this narrative of an institution that "cannot afford to give a living wage to workers" - which Local 256 has proven to be false.

Local 256's demands are simple:

- **Healthcare** that preserves our current benefits and coverage;
- **International worker protections** that support workers facing vulnerabilities under changing federal policies;
- A **union shop** that ensures our ability to effectively enforce our contract and preserves our union for future generations.
- **Fair compensation, vacation, and leave** which match standards at peer institutions.

Yet MIT has been obstinate at the bargaining table, and has not only refused to bargain in good faith, but has proposed ***rolling back protections*** already won in the last contract.

A supermajority of members of Local 256 have cast their ballots, and 92.5% of them voted to authorize a strike. UE Local 256 held their Last Chance Picket on October 29th. If MIT does not provide a fair contract, then UE Local 256 will be going on strike on November 12, 2026.

Therefore, be it resolved

1. GLU-UE reaffirms our commitment to standing in solidarity with our siblings at Local 256 as they fight for a better contract.
2. GLU-UE calls upon the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to return to the bargaining table with a fair contract that meets the needs of graduate workers.
3. If UE Local 256 is still on strike on November 19th, 2026, then GLU-UE will make a solidarity contribution to their strike fund of $250.