

Bargaining Update

September 24, 2020

Two weeks ago today, **we won the ability for GRAs and GTAs to receive compensation for internet expenses imposed by remote work during the Covid-19 pandemic!** University administration did NOT want to give this to us, so let's give a huge shout-out to the bargaining team, the contract action team, and every single member who showed up to bargaining sessions throughout summer to pressure OSU into providing this basic employment need! Thanks to all of you, hundreds of graduate employees will no longer be forced to spend food or rent money paying for internet service that is essential for our jobs.

We are drafting a standardized request letter for grads to send to supervisors. As usual, this is being held up by inaction from OSU administrators. However, you do not need to wait to begin the internet reimbursement process. **The first step is to simply contact your supervisor stating your need for stable, secure internet to perform your work duties, and requesting their authorization for reimbursement from the university.** [Make sure to cite our recently signed agreement in your email.](#)

We are extremely close to reaching agreement on our remote work proposal...and have been for the last two weeks. At our last session, we said repeatedly (and OSU seemed to agree) that this proposal should be signed before the term started. Yet here we are, several days into Fall term, with no remote work proposal in sight. Repeated emails to OSU's bargaining team have yielded nothing. **Every day that passes without this proposal in place needlessly endangers graduate employees, our students, and all the staff and faculty we work with. We'll need to hold OSU accountable for their recklessness this Friday, and use our member power to ensure they sign this proposal that has been sitting on their desks for 2 weeks.**

In the meantime, as Fall term begins, some of you may be finding new and/or unexpected issues at your workplace (both Covid and non-Covid related). **Please don't hesitate to voice your concerns! The bargaining process is ongoing and we still have time to share testimonies, make demands, and pressure OSU.** This is a real emergency, and we will continue doing everything we can to make OSU treat it as such.

As the term started this week and students and employees who have been gone for months move back to Corvallis, OSU's reopening plan has [already begun to wreak havoc on our community.](#) **YOUR COWORKERS NEED YOU at the bargaining session because that puts pressure on OSU administration to make changes.** As their team becomes more and more reluctant to move forward, we'll need to keep that pressure up at the bargaining table and elsewhere. We are always coming up with new tactics to win graduate employees the protections we deserve. We'll be having discussions on this topic throughout this term and we welcome input from all of our members!