

Bargaining Update

September 2, 2020

Since July, our bargaining team has handed over 16 proposals on protections we need to do our work safely and effectively during the pandemic. So far, OSU has only responded to 2 of these proposals: one on the determination of remote work, and another on internet compensation. Among other things, we've also asked for protections that address member concerns about medical expenses, retaliation from supervisors, and coverage for funeral costs of graduate employees who lose their lives from Covid-19 while working for the university.

In the last session, OSU declared that they would not be signing most of the above proposals, citing budgetary limitations and claiming that these concerns are already covered by our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). How can they expect a document made for standard workplace conditions to provide all the protections we need in the emergency conditions of this pandemic?

Today we will be passing administration our final proposals, including protections for medical expenses, campus safety, remote teaching, childcare, and transportation. Let's make OSU administration understand that these needs are just as important for us as for them, and our voices will not be ignored.

WE NEED MEMBER TESTIMONIES

Many of us are already experiencing job-related difficulties and dangers because of the pandemic. Some have even given testimony on this. However, our efforts in impact bargaining are not just about fixing a dangerous present or making up for a dangerous past, but also about preventing a dangerous future. Can you imagine a way that your job might be harder this Fall term because of the pandemic? Can you imagine a way that your job this Fall might place you or other members of your household in danger? **Those worries are testimonies too, and testimonies help management pay attention.**

In our last bargaining session, we had 3 testimonies. Every one of them demonstrated that OSU is making decisions that affect our community without the input of graduate workers or members of the community. While OSU admins get to safely work from home making more than ten times the salary of a Graduate Employee, we are expected to risk our lives going onto campus to teach or conduct research. This will not change until our voices are present at the bargaining table. OSU needs to hear all of the ways that the pandemic has affected you and your work, so that our combined voices can secure protections that will directly impact all of us.

Your colleagues need you to share any concerns you have about community safety and the ways OSU is falling short to support its employees in their work. Submit testimony [through this form](#) or by contacting Nathan, our VP of bargaining at vp_bargaining@cge6069.org