

Impact Bargaining Update

September 9, 2020

We have very nearly reached agreement on two proposals related to remote work and home internet expenses for graduate employees. The remote work proposal mainly provides graduate employees with the ability to seek remote work if given an in-person work assignment. The internet proposal requires OSU to cover home internet expenses for graduate employees following supervisor approval. These proposals will help protect graduate employees from exposure to COVID and ensure we have the internet access necessary to perform our work remotely.

While we have made strong progress on our remote work proposal, OSU is still not committing to protect international grad employees. They are also refusing to guarantee remote work for graduate employees who live in households occupied by immunocompromised individuals. **We intend to finalize the remote work and internet proposals today, which means we need strong member pressure at the table for the final push.**

Apart from the two proposals discussed above, OSU has refused to address all other concerns and insecurities that grads are facing right now. In response, **our bargaining team decided to pass a package proposal to OSU during our last session. This document covered 17 different issues ranging from coverage of medical expenses and insurance waivers, to details of course instruction and provision of adequate resources for graduate employees to be able to work remotely.** While we are very unlikely to reach agreement on this package proposal today, the pandemic is not going anywhere and we need these protections. OSU insists on endangering us with a needlessly drawn-out timeline, which means we need to pack the room so we can finish as early into Fall term as possible.