



Dear Members,

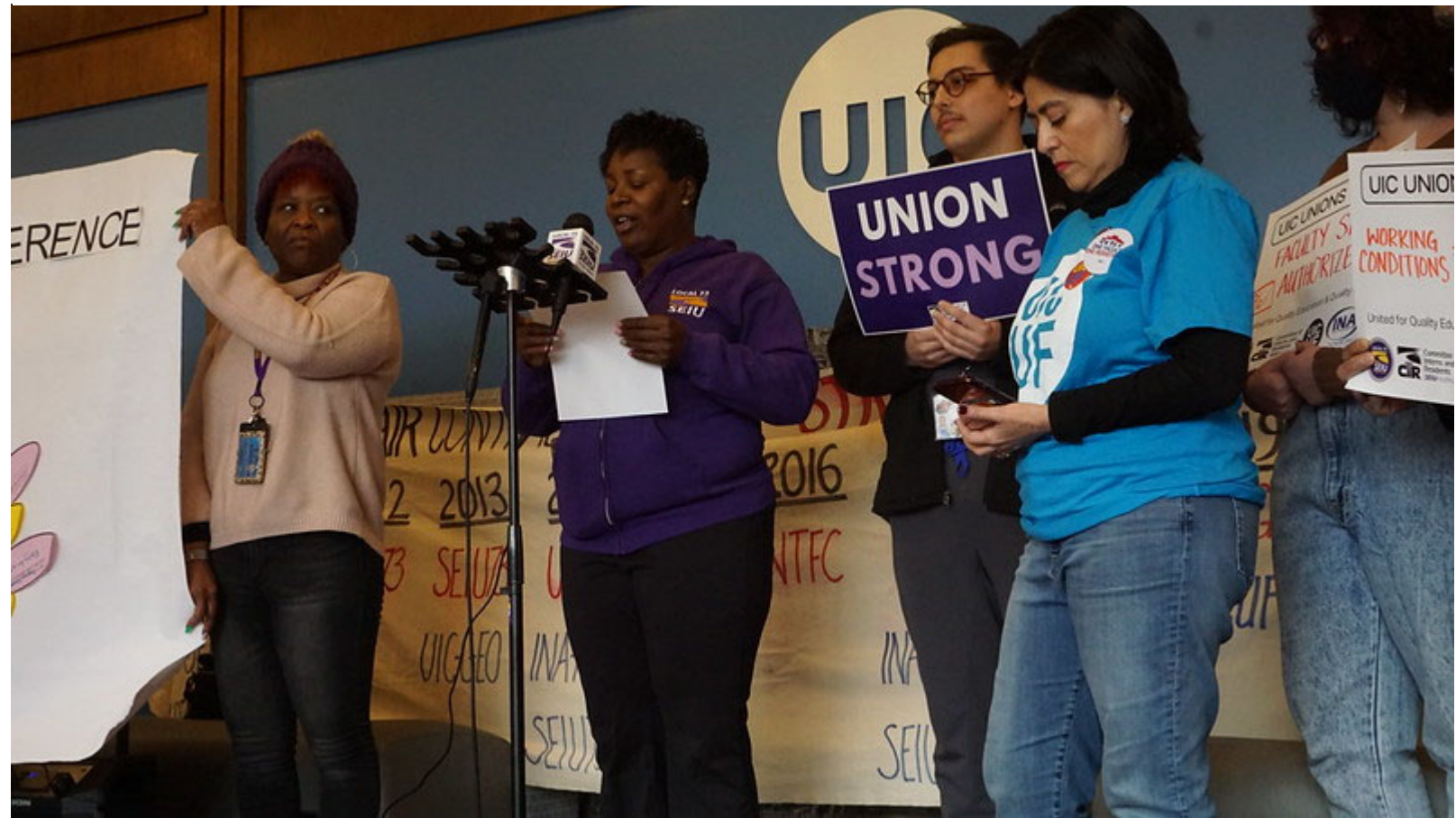
Last Thursday, UIC workers spoke out at the University of Illinois System Board of Trustees meeting to demand that university leaders make UIC a safe and clean place for workers, students, and patients. Union members from UIC United Faculty, the Committee of Interns and Residents, the UIC Graduate Employees Organization, and SEIU Local 73 workers rallied together to call upon UIC to do the right thing for their employees and the communities they serve. Rather than letting workers speak, UIC administrators attempted to interrupt the press conference and silence the speakers, but our unions stood united and made our voices heard. [Watch the whole press conference here.](#)

SEIU Local 73 Building Service Worker and Chief Steward Marcia Hargrove spoke out about the threat of privatization of custodial services at UIC. "SEIU Local 73 custodial staff stood on the front lines during the height of COVID for the communities UI Health and UIC serve...But instead of spending their money on paying higher wages to incentivize better staffing, the university is considering paying outside companies."

These companies threaten the cleanliness on campus because they cut corners, putting profit over the community's needs and worsening care in the process. Still, they threaten job security and our strength as a union.

"This shift from public to private sector also unfairly affects our Black and Brown workers. Turning public sector jobs into private ones results in lower wages, loss of healthcare and retirement benefits, and job insecurity. As a grandparent, it saddens me to face the possibility of a lower standard of living for my family. For many Building Service Workers, making ends meet is difficult. Imagine how much harder it will be for the families we care about if we face the threat of privatization," said Hargrove.

SEIU Local 73 workers are thankful for our union jobs that make up our quality of life.



SEIU Local 73's fight at UIC has only just begun.

- Take the time to [fill out a bargaining survey](#) to make your voice heard about the issues that matter most to you and your coworkers.
- Every department and area needs at least one person involved in this fight – a reminder that [bargaining team nominations](#) are due Friday, December 2.
- Speak out about your experiences with privatization and the need for a safe & clean campus and hospital at UIC by [filling out this survey](#) here.

This action was a reminder that the fight is more significant than just SEIU 73. University employees across UIC have felt the impact of the pandemic through increased workloads and wages that fall far behind inflation. Speakers from the Committee of Interns and Residents – SEIU and UIC United Faculty, both at the bargaining table for months, called for a fair contract so that the employees have the resources they need to provide the quality care and quality education that the UIC campus community deserve. UIC United Faculty filed an intent to strike last Wednesday. Read more about our united fight to make UIC a better place on this [flyer](#).

In solidarity,

Melinda Bunnage
Director of Higher Education