



Dear UIC Service Workers,

Earlier this month on December 8, Union Stewards Marcia Hargrove, Sara Myrick, Monica Jones, Tawanda Vaughn, and Vee Steward met with UIC management to discuss the staffing issues that UIC Building Service Workers and Housekeepers continue to face. The focus of this meeting was on the recruitment and hiring practices within UIC Human Resources. In the meeting, we did the following:

- Identified areas where UIC's current practices can be improved
- Brainstormed ways for SEIU to collaborate with UIC on promoting the open positions (such as UIC hosting hiring hall)
- Presented our concerns with how low the starting pay is for BSWs in comparison to other custodial positions in Chicago
- Agreed to meet again in January to continue discussing how to improve staffing levels on campus

Your stewards are continuing to work with UIC to ensure that we explore any and all avenues that would prevent further privatization of custodial services on UIC's campus. UIC has repeatedly stated the large number of vacancies is one of the reasons they are exploring bringing in additional companies to do custodial work. But we know privatizing is a short-cut which will only worsen the safety and cleanliness of campus in the long run.

Our fight for better staffing is just one proactive step we can take now to improve working conditions, and ultimately protect members jobs from the threats posed by outside private companies. Please continue to [sign and share our survey about privatization](#) on campus so we can collect as much information and stories as possible about this threat.

We also know that these conversations are directly connected to our fight for a better contract for all Service employees. If you haven't yet, take the time now to [fill out a bargaining survey here](#).

In solidarity,

Melinda Bunnage
Director of Higher Education