



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEIU Local 73 Statement in Solidarity with the Graduate Employees' Organization

Chicago, IL – SEIU Local 73 President Dian Palmer issued the following statement on the University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign Police kicking out Graduate Employees' Organization members from the Illini Union during a Tutor-In Action on December 8.

"The UIUC administration has demonstrated they neither value the Graduate employees nor the education services they provide university students. These underpaid employees provided tutoring to undergraduate students before their final exams. And the Administration shamefully sent in UI police to stop Graduate employees from providing that service.

Graduate employees have been working without a contract for nearly 100 days and still show up ready to teach classes, run labs, and serve the campus community. In addition to delays in bargaining and the refusal to honor GEO's demands, the Administration undermines students' education during the most crucial time of the semester. It's more evident than ever who makes the University run: the graduate workers who remain dedicated to their student's academic success.

We stand in solidarity with GEO and demand the UI Administration stop retaliating against workers."

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SEIU Local 73 represents 730 building and food service workers at UIUC, and more than 31,000 workers, primarily in public service and publicly funded positions in school districts, municipalities, social service agencies, and many other job classifications in Illinois and Indiana. We are dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families.