

## UIC Bargaining Update – January 12, 2024



Dear UIC Members,

Your union started off 2024 strong with a Contract Action Team meeting on January 6 and two bargaining sessions this week. Service met on January 9, and all four contracts met on January 11. In bargaining last Thursday, management told your bargaining team that they didn't expect to have responses to our proposals to improve pay until February. That's one month later than they originally said when we gave them our economic proposals over two months ago!

We are disappointed with management's delay. The longer negotiations go on, the longer workers have to wait for pay raises that are long overdue. It's time to close the pay gap between UIC workers and other state employees. It's time for equity in the pay scales so that all workers are paid fairly, no matter your race, gender, or what part of campus you work for. But the U of I President and the Board of Trustees continue to evade and avoid UIC students and workers – they even rushed to move their January 18 meeting to Urbana instead of listening to the voices of the campus community in Chicago!

No more excuses – workers will be heard. This week, your union is hosting a week of action in honor of Martin Luther King and his leadership championing racial and economic justice. Please join our [Virtual Rally in honor of MLK Jr. at 6 PM on January 18](#). In addition to rallying, help your coworkers show unity and strength by [circulating our petition to the BoT](#), sharing solidarity pictures on [social media](#), and stopping by one of our tables on January 18 between 8 AM -1 PM in Student Center West and Student Center East. Look out for more information on how you can participate.

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### **Extended Bargaining Update**

In the all-group bargaining session on January 11, the union gave management responses on all of our remaining open issues. We were able to make some progress on our health and safety demands, though management is still refusing to make any commitments to members about increased security at the hospital. Management also inched closer to us on our proposal to shorten the grievance procedure process, but the sides were still not able to reach an agreement.

In Service bargaining on January 9, we won a fair process and more transparency over the distribution of overtime. We also gave management our proposal to increase protections against privatization in the contract. Finally, we proposed a fair process to address the potential impact of Aramark's privatizing hospital environmental services. Our priorities are:

- Preventing the layoff of any BSWs as a result of privatization
- Ensuring that all BSWs seniority is honored in the placement of workers in vacant shifts and positions
- Holding management accountable to consistent and clear communication about timeframe, processes, and resources available to all impacted workers.

We will continue these and other conversations in our upcoming bargaining sessions. This week, we will be bargaining with Professionals on January 18 and Technical on January 19 – RSVP to attend any of the upcoming bargaining sessions [here](#).