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Bargaining Update

We've held four bargaining sessions with management in the last two weeks: Technical on February 13; Service on February 15; Professional on February 20; and all contracts on February 21. The good news is that we were able to reach tentative agreements in the February 15 Service session, securing improvements to make the vacation approval process and overtime distribution more equitable and transparent. However, on February 13, UIC finally gave us economic proposals for the Technical unit. We were disappointed that UIC chose to only propose minor changes to the status quo rather than serious solutions to improve working conditions and ensure full-funded services for students and workers. UIC says they want to address the inequity in the pay scale, but they gave us a regressive proposal that hardly met the amounts they currently pay! They say want to raise the pay rates to be competitive, but they rejected our proposal to increase all the minimum rates for each title. They say they want to retain people and honor seniority, but they rejected our proposal to honor internal experience more than external experience. That's why we requested the intervention of a federal mediator, and we had our first session with the mediator yesterday in all groups bargaining on February 21.

It's time to force management to put their money where their mouth is and stop wasting our time with unserious proposals. Until we take action, there is no risk or consequences for their stonewalling and stalling. That's why your coworkers

on the Bargaining and the Contract Action Team have decided it's time to start taking steps to prepare for a strike if workers want to see a contract done before the end of the semester. [Register for the CAT meeting](#) tonight at 6 PM to join the conversation.

We will bargain with Technical again on February 28 on Zoom, and we will review the titles that UIC believes are below the market, as well as pass our counter proposal for improvements to the wage scales. On February 29, we will bargain with all groups in person at SEIU Local 73 Office, 300 S Ashland. We asked UIC to be prepared to discuss our counter proposal to improve the market and equity review process. Sign up to RSVP for one of the bargaining sessions [here](#)!

Member Testimony: Lizabeth Fernandez, Medical Social Worker



Medical Social Workers at UIC want to provide mental health services to as many clients as possible. But, as Lizabeth explains, short staffing due to high turnover and changing productivity goals make it difficult to see new clients from their massive wait list. UIC must fill the nearly 1,000 vacant positions on campus and in the hospital to ensure reasonable workloads for all workers.

[Click here to watch the reel.](#)

Contract Action Team Meeting: Feb. 22 @ 6 PM

You and your coworkers must be prepared to hold management's feet to the fire and ensure that members see the pay raises you deserve as soon as possible. [RSVP to attend the upcoming Contract Action Team meeting tonight, February 22 at 6 PM on Zoom.](#) We will be reviewing updates from the bargaining table and discussing our next steps in our fight to fully fund the needs of workers, students, and patients at UIC.



Next Steps

- [Sign our letter demanding](#) that UI stop spending money on private companies, and start investing in students, patients, and workers!