

RESOLUTION

Council of Graduate Students (COGS) – University of Minnesota

Date: September 12, 2007

Passed by the COGS General Assembly: September 20, 2007

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Topic: Graduate Students Support Unionized Workers in Contract Negotiations with University Administration

Whereas the research and education of University graduate students is unimaginable without clerical, technical and health care workers;

Whereas no part of the mission of the University of Minnesota (Research and Discovery, Teaching and Learning, and Outreach and Public Service) is possible without these workers;

Whereas persons working for the University deserve a livable wage, job security and opportunities for advancement;

Whereas AFSCME workers' salary has declined by 5%, adjusted for inflation, since 2002, while administrative salaries have increased by an average of 27% in the same time, as the *Minnesota Daily* noted 15 August 2007;

Whereas University clerical, technical and health care workers and their union, AFSCME Locals 3800, 3937, 3260 and 3801 are in the process of negotiating their contract with the University of Minnesota to guarantee a livable wage, job security and opportunities for advancement;

Whereas other state, county and municipal workers in Minnesota have been given a 3.5% inflation-based adjustment to their base pay, not including *step increases*, while the University has offered AFSCME clerical and technical workers 2.25% and medical workers 2.5% increases to base pay, as the *Pioneer Press* noted 3 September 2007; and

Whereas AFSCME has supported graduate students in their struggles for better wages and working conditions:

Be it resolved that COGS censures members of University Administration including Director Vicich and Vice President Carrier for disingenuously claiming that step increases constitute livable-wage increases;

Be it further resolved that COGS rejects University Administration's divide-and-conquer tactics and instead challenges all University units to stand up for AFSCME workers as we would stand up for ourselves;

Be it further resolved that the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) stands with workers and calls on President Robert Bruininks, University Administration, Human Resources and the Board of Regents to respect AFSCME workers' contributions by negotiating a fair contract that guarantees a livable wage, affordable health insurance, job security and opportunities for advancement; and

Be it further resolved that COGS supports AFSCME members in their strike for the above purposes.