

Boston University Office of the Provost



Dr. Kenneth Lutchen, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer ad interim

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March 26, 2024

Dear Graduate Student Colleagues:

Our graduate student union workers (BUGWU) began their strike on Monday, March 25. We value our graduate students and their many contributions to teaching and research and are disappointed that BUGWU has chosen to strike, particularly when there is so much work to do at the bargaining table.

While we recognize BUGWU's right to strike, we are deeply concerned about the impact this activity will have on thousands of enrolled students and are committed to doing everything we can to minimize disruptions to the educational experiences in our community.

We have an obligation to meet the present moment and to support all our students – including those in the bargaining unit – to keep University operations running during this time. This means making fair and principled decisions about how to keep our operations going during a strike period. Those who work will be paid, and those who withhold their labor in support of a labor strike will not be. Those choices, and the consequences of those choices, are built into our federal labor laws. Each student in the union is free to make their own choice about how they'd like to proceed during a strike period, and the University will not retaliate against any student engaging in lawful strike activity.

Our payroll processes for students during the strike period have been updated. There are different procedures for hourly and salaried students. Hourly paid students, non-service students, and other students in student employment positions outside of the BUGWU unit will be paid in the normal course. **Salaried students will now be required to certify their work effort each week through an attestation form in order to receive their weekly pay.** Please review [our website](#) to ensure you are familiar with the process relevant to you.

I understand and respect that this is a difficult situation for all of you. We hope this disruption to our community will be short-lived. We will continue to update our [website](#) so that you can stay apprised of our [negotiations process](#) and operational procedures going forward.

Our next bargaining session with the students will be on Wednesday, March 27, and we look forward to hearing their counterproposals and ideas for how we can move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KL", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kenneth Lutchen
University Provost and Chief Academic Officer ad interim