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Dear members of the GEO, you still have a couple of days to prepare for the application for the 2020 autumn round of the Scientific Support Fund (SSF). We have been able to expand the range of qualifying costs through the current phase. SSF applications will go live on Monday, November 9 (8am) and will close on Friday, November 13 (11:59 p.m.). SSF will continue to operate in order the first came. If you do this for the finalists, you can get up to \$200 refunded in qualifying costs (see paragraph 2.2 of the frequently asked questions). We recommend checking the SSF checklist to prepare for the filing and frequently asked SSF questions for more information about SSF. Feel free to contact us at geo@umb.edu any question. In Solidarity, GEO EDIT: Our date of ratification WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, at 4pm! Increase the link the same. GEO, After almost a year of struggle, negotiations, roadblocks and failures, we have come to a preliminary agreement with the university within one year of extending the collective agreement! Our ratification talks vote Thursday, OCTOBER 8TH, AT 4pm. Zoom in on the link here. Don't miss it: it's important. We were able to secure a huge victory for the members: at one point the university repeatedly told us that they would not be able to provide any increases or benefits during the pandemic, we continued to fight and managed to get away with some really substantial benefits. We are pleased to recommend this agreement for ratification. Before we dive into the details, we must first give a huge credit and thanks for the hard work of geo members who are working on campus right now. They fought, organized, petitioned, and emailed the university's management on safety and parking costs. They helped convince the university that forcing GEO members to pay expensive parking rates meant that people would have to take T, and that it would jeopardize millions of dollars of research and health of university employees and their families. The fact is that the solid sum of this victory comes from their efforts, and without them we would have left with a weaker deal. The short version of the proposal is this: CBA will be extended (evergreen) to cover the fiscal year 2020-2021. The university will pay for an increase in health insurance costs for the 2020-2021 financial year, effectively freezing last year's rates. It saves members a lot of money right now! The University will work with us to appropriately use the Scientific Support Fund to strengthen the academic activities of this unit; Since we cannot travel, the fund will go to cover other activities. The university has pledged to make parking free for graduate students, who are due to be in place in the fall. This program covers all approved to come in Regularly. This agreement is only for the short term. We resume negotiations on the main table in the week of March 2021. This gives us more time to organize our members, so we can continue to put pressure on the university for fair wages and better working conditions. The text of the preliminary agreement can be found here. We will see you all next Thursday afternoon where we will discuss more details, answer

questions, and ratify the proposed contract. Best, Graduate Advocate We have two membership meetings coming up! Our first meeting is focused: lately we have heard many complaints about parking for GAs that still work on campus. If you are in place of a graduate assistant, we have three asks of you: Email us your complaints! The more the better: every letter, every voice, and every word we have gives us a stronger ground to stand on when we push management to make the process better for our members. Join us today at 18:00 EST! We have a meeting specifically around the parking lot at 6:00 pm today: zoom in here. And for all members: sign this petition! Some members working as RAs who are due to come to campus have formed a petition and we are happy to spread the word. You can sign it here. ALL-MEMBER MEETINGSEPTEMBER 28TH, 5.30pm-7:00pm Our big, all-membership, COVID-and-influence-and-main-table bidding will take place this coming Monday, September 28, from 5.30pm EST to 7:00pm EST! Come with any complaint, question, concern or question that you have. We know this is our first meeting of members this semester and we want to see you all there! We will send a zoom link on Monday morning as well as a reminder. NOTE: This is for our local elections UAW 1596, not for geo-specific elections. For information on the UMass Boston GEO election, click here. FOR ALL: This is an official appeal to all members who want to be a candidate for any (1) of the ten (10) local executive bodies of the Union. PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE VICE VICE PRESIDENT FISCAL SECRETARY-TREASURER RECORDING SECRETARY THREE (3) TRUSTEES GUIDE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Rules: All members in a permanent good position for one (1) year to 10/2/20 will be eligible for election to any (1) executive branch. All members with good jobs have the right to be appointed to any position (1) of the executive body of the local union. Interested members must submit, by registered or certified mail, the nomination form to UAW Local 1596 Electoral Commission 960 Turnpike Street, Suite 2C, Canton, MA 02021 (Local 1596 Under Act 13, Section 11). Candidates open on 25/20 September and all nomination forms must be included in the local UAW 1596 office by the close of business 10/14/20 in order to be included in the ballot. Nomination forms can be obtained from your Candidates have the right within thirty (30) days after the election (9/25/20 to 10/20/20) to check the mailing list containing the names and the last known known all members eligible to vote. Candidates are not allowed to copy a membership list, only the right to check and/or compare it to a personal list of members. The ballots will be mailed 10/20/20. Each candidate has the right to have one (1) candidate present at the counting of votes, provided that such a candidate is a member of the Local Union and any cost will be borne by the candidate. (International Article 38, Section 10). Ballot papers must be returned no later than the business closes on 10/28/20. Ballot papers will be counted at the UAW office at 960 Turnpike Street, Canton, Massachusetts. We are happy to announce that we have candidates! You can download .pdf that has its own photos, programs, short biographies, and campaign blurbs. Dates for the rest of the election cycle are below! Wednesday, September 23: The campaign period begins! Wednesday, October 7: Voter registration ends at 17:00 .m EST. Thursday and Friday, October 8 and 9: Vote! Tuesday, October 13: Results will be announced. How do I register to vote? As part of our new digital voting process, we require all GEO members who wish to participate in updating their membership status by re-registering for membership and voting by filling out a new PDF membership form and sending it from your UMB letter to geoumb.elections@gmail.com. If you are already a member, it will not lead you to re-charge; it just makes it easier for us to say who is currently and is not a member of the pay fees for voting purposes. Again, to register to vote you must complete and send a PDF membership form geoumb.elections@gmail.com. For answers to questions such as: why do you need to register?. How can I register?. How can I vote?, and more - read on our Fall 2020 Election frequently asked questions related here! In a coalition with the Classified Staff Union, the Faculty Employees Union, the Professional Staff Union and the Department of Departments, GEO is working tirelessly to piece together a document on the overall health and safety measures taking place on campus, making sure that staff and the entire campus community will be healthy as more classes and studies begin to return to campus. We enter our next session of negotiations with the university tomorrow, and negotiate a forced document with the university, so that those who come on campus are healthy and safe. Officially, our last collective bargaining agreement with the university ended this summer, which means we still live in the old world. The move was slow as COVID and a change of leadership of the university caused delays in negotiations. as there is a significant Budget and the long-term effects of the pandemic; We are currently looking at options around an extension of one year to buy everything for a while. This delay in bidding The approach other unions on campus are using as well. For us at GEO, we don't want the university to buy time for free! We demand immediate exemption from the additional costs associated with COVID and health care. We'll keep you updated as the negotiations progress. But our guidelines are still the same, we need fair wages and safe working conditions for graduate employees of UMass! The Foundation for Scientific Support, because we are still working on a new contract with the university, SSF is still up in the air; As things are worth currently no travel or reimbursement of travel expenses allowed by UMass. Unfortunately, SSF remains in the pre-grey zone as we negotiate with the university. If you are interested in running for office in our organizing committee, this is good news! We want to announce that we will run for two open positions (0.50 FTE) for the GEO Organizing Committee this fall 2020. We have adapted the electoral process to adopt the online format. Elections will be held at the beginning of the semester for the rapid start of these appointments. A .50 FTE appointment with GEO can complement your 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, or 1.00 assistants (s)! You can run for our organizing committee as long as you are a paid graduate member of GEO. This year's elections will be held electronically. We will therefore ask those who are not currently active members, paying contributions, to consider early membership before the vote. We also recommend that those who currently have or will be eligible to vote register to vote early as well. We will be sending detailed information about voter registration and the nomination process, and more, soon. Stay tuned! Here's a timeline of the temporary election process: (final dates to come with the next announcement) Tuesday, September 15: Nomination and registration period begins. Tuesday, September 22: The nomination period closes. Wednesday, September 23: The campaign period begins. Tuesday, October 7: Voter registration ends at 17:00 .m EST. Thursday and Friday, October 8 and 9: Vote! Monday, October 12: Results will be announced. Hi GEO, the new semester is almost upon us. We only deliver a few quick updates before we hunker back down in autumn training. Parking: We know at some point in the fall semester the university is going to resume collecting parking fees; however, specific information has not yet emerged, although it should be released from the university relatively soon. It is important to note that in the spring we signed an impact bidding agreement, which states that the university must give a two-week notice before resuming the parking fee collection with GEO members. Health and Safety (HSS) We are in coalition with our union partners; we met with them on Monday to deliver our first sentences that are all about enforcing and enforcing the rules to keep everyone We are currently waiting for them to come back to us with dates to meet again. The main deal table: We are waiting for proposals from management, which would lead to a one-year extension in favor of reducing the cost of health insurance. We don't know how much the cuts will be; our next meeting at the main table with management will take place on the 16th. GEO: Because of COVID, we had to rethink our electoral process - and we still do. We plan to announce a self-nomination period next week as soon as we iron out all the details! Fund For The Support of Scientists: Because of COVID, some of you have asked if you can request SSF for things other than airfare, conference registration fees and hotel reservations - because none of us are going to travel. We are in talks with the university on how to achieve this, but we want to tell you now that the SSF will be postponed and applications will not be opened on the first day of the semester. As soon as we find out more details, we'll let you all know. Stay safe there, graduate attorney We are working on an SSF update to reflect the realities of academia during the lockout. Our goal is to release a full set of details in our next message and start the application process on the first day of class. At this point we will clarify some final details on what the right costs are and how to make sure you need a refund. Our goal is to move the SSF from the tourism fund to the general initiative of academic support, which is a pretty major change. Stay tuned on our website. If we have to postpone applications to make the program more effective, we will let you know well in advance. Advance.

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