

## NEWS RELEASE

### PENN STATE GRADUATE EMPLOYEES RELEASE CALL FOR ACTION ON WORKPLACE ISSUES

*From the Coalition of Graduate Employees*

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STATE COLLEGE (Nov. 15, 2017) – This morning, Penn State employees united as the Coalition of Graduate Employees (CGE) issued a statement demanding action on workplace issues such as insufficient wages, inadequate healthcare, sexual harassment, and discrimination.

The statement was released because of Penn State’s refusal to allow graduate employees to address issues in public session with the Board of Trustees. It identifies wages, healthcare, working conditions, sexual and gender-based harassment, inadequate grievance procedures, rights of international graduate employees, and racial, gender, and disability rights as key areas of concern. It continues to explain that these issues are common to many categories of employment at Penn State, and that all Penn State employees deserve living wages and dignity on the job.

“Penn State bureaucrats received five-figure raises on the backs of undergraduates, and a faction of Trustees dramatically reduced institutional transparency. Meanwhile, Penn State couldn’t find time to let us speak,” said Doug Kulchar, President of the Coalition. “Some employees have to rely on government assistance just to survive. It isn’t right that Nick Jones is getting a raise to bust unions while undergraduates go further into debt and employees can’t make rent.”

“We have consistently said that we’re fighting for solutions on issues that matter to graduate employees,” said Katie Warczak, Media Officer for the Coalition. “We firmly believe these issues can only be truly resolved through working together in a union—but we refuse to wait for Penn State administrators to stop their financially wasteful legal action and allow a vote. We want solutions now, and we’re willing to fight for them.”

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*The Coalition of Graduate Employees is an employee-led union campaign organizing Penn State’s 3,724 graduate assistants. It filed for a union election in February 2017.*