

THE AMPLIFIER

YOUR UNION, YOUR VOICE

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Graduate Assistant Virtual Zoom Session With SIUC Chancellor Austin Lane

Listening and Learning Session scheduled for February 18, 2021

On Thursday, February 18th from 5pm-6pm, GAU will be hosting a Listening and Learning Session with Chancellor Lane via zoom (link below). This is a graduate assistant/student only session and is an opportunity for us to provide the Chancellor with our perspectives on what is and is not working at SIU, and what improvements can be made to better the experience of being a GA at SIU.

Last month, we wrote about how, in 2021, our Student Health Insurance cost will likely be increasing to over \$1000 a semester for the first time, and how this most recent proposed increase would mean a 162% increase since 2016 alone. This month, we'd like to inform you about our pay. Since GAU's inception in 2006, GA's have only seen an average, per discipline, of a 13% increase in our pay, so roughly \$200. We are happy to have seen some increase, but a paycheck of roughly \$1300 to roughly \$1500 (over 9 months) in 15 years is not good enough. Our lack of pay increases once again showcase how the financial burdens of the institution often fall on the shoulders of the students. If these are also concerns you have, we want to hear from you, both via email and at our Listening and Learning Session in February. So, reach out and let us know your thoughts, and mark your calendars for February 18th at 5pm!

Listening and Learning zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/95582192301?pwd=QXRpTHpQRy9nQzVtSG1IRnlLcDI4Zz09>

Morris Library Set to Reopen

Limited Opening

Beginning Monday, Jan. 25, all floors of the library will be open for students to access Wifi, use study space, or pick up physical items requested from the stacks. Students should enter and exit via the north or east doors. Masks and social distancing will be required, enhanced cleaning protocols will be implemented, and cleaning supplies will be available to sanitize work areas. Appointments are required to [access Special Collections](#) or the Research Center. Online resources and reference services will continue to be available. See the library's website for hours and information. <https://lib.siu.edu/>

Welcome Back!!!

GAU Works For You

Graduate Assistants United would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back for Spring semester. We know how challenging this year has been and we would like to remind you that you are not alone. Covid-19 has made an already work intensive position even more demanding, but GAU is listening to your concerns. We have your backs, and we will always be working to have your voices heard.

In recent years, Graduate Assistants United has negotiated a first-time fee reimbursement of \$360 per year for every Graduate Assistant at SIU. We have brought your Covid-19 concerns to the administration and situated health and safety protocols as a first priority. As a result, our Impact Bargaining created new protections for Graduate Assistants involving time sheet record keeping and paid sick-leave provisions!

Urgent Reminder from IT Multi-factor Authentication

GAU is reminding our members that SIUC students need to sign up for the multi-factor authentication by 1/27/2021 to avoid being locked out of your email, D2L, and Salukinet. It may also leave you unable to change vital information.

We want to make sure graduate assistants have no issues accessing D2L this weekend, so make sure you enroll today.

To make things easier, Information Technology has made a video, which can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/lVpL5CC3Xqg>

Additionally, more detailed instructions can be found on the IT website at:

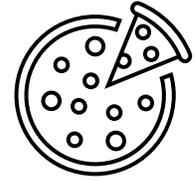
<https://oit.siu.edu/credentials/mfa.php>



Fall Happy Hour Delivers the Goods

Happy Hour at home keeps our members safe

On Wednesday, November 18th, GAU had its first Virtual Happy Hour to provide our members with free pizzas from Pagliai's in Carbondale!



Be on the lookout for more Happy Hour events this semester!

Graduate Assistants United: On the Horizon

Virtual Valentine's Trivia scheduled for February

Will you be our Valentine? GAU is hosting Virtual Valentine's Trivia at 6:30pm on Wed., Feb. 10, with a slew of prizes for you to share with your favorite person!

RSVP to the event on Facebook (<https://fb.me/e/7yTYIMUCj>) to be eligible for door prizes and attend the actual event for extra chances.

Then use the Zoom link (<https://zoom.us/j/92767502670>) to attend trivia where you can win BIG prizes!

The department who has the most GAs in attendance will win a pizza party funded by GAU for a later date of your choosing.

The winner of each individual round will receive a gift card to a local establishment valued at \$10.

Overall winners will receive:

- **1st place:** Tickets to Stage Company's virtual presentation of "The Revolutionists" (tickets for Saturday, Feb. 13th performance, only), gift card to a local winery, and a gift card to the Co-Op Grocery Store (package valued at \$80).
- **2nd place:** \$25 to Pagliai's Pizza
- **3rd place:** \$25 to Common Grounds

Get your conversation hearts ready, study up on your 90s Rom-Coms, and let us gift you some sweet swag. In the words of Jerry Maguire, "You complete [us]." ♥

Become A Member! Scan the QR Code

Please note when you fill this out, you MUST specify under "Membership Type" that you are "Higher Education – Quarter Time (Less than 10 hours). Do not select a higher "Type," as this will result in paying more dues than is necessary. This has been confirmed with the IEA Office. Once the form is filled out, President Wilcoxon will be notified, and we will mail you your free GAU mask!



Sign up [here](#) to receive our emails and monthly newsletter