

THE AMPLIFIER

YOUR UNION, YOUR VOICE

March 31, 2021

Volume 1 Issue 4

Email: gau.siuuc@gmail.com

Web: <https://gaunited.org/>

General Body Meeting In the Park

Red Oak Shelter, Evergreen Park, Thursday April 15th @ 4pm

Graduate Assistants United will be holding our General Body Meeting on April 15th at 4pm. for all current and prospective members! The meeting will be held outdoors at the Red Oak Shelter in Evergreen Park, just south of campus.

During the meeting we will be discussing union updates and opportunities for members to be part of our 2021-2022 Executive Council. Elections will be held for next year during our Voting General Body Meeting which will take place at the end of finals week.

We will have free food and light refreshments will be provided. And, we will have membership forms and t-shirts available, so come and see what Graduate Assistants United is all about.

If you decide to become a member, you'll have full voting privileges and get to vote at our next meeting for next year's executives!

Please note: masks and physical distancing *are required*. Masks may be removed when enjoying refreshments while seated at a safe distance from others. There will be plenty of space at the park for us to help keep each other safe!

SIUC Will Host In-Person Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 7th – Sunday, May 9th

All ceremonies will be conducted according to the protocols required by the [Restore Illinois Plan](#). Social distancing and masks will be required for all participants, guests, and staff. Graduates who are unable to participate due to illness, exposure, or safety concerns may participate in a future Commencement ceremony. All ceremonies will be broadcast live online for those who are unable to attend.

Visit commencement.siu.edu/ceremonies for details on each commencement ceremony.

Fall Campus Plan

We Are Proud to Represent You!

During Fall semester 2020, Graduate Assistants United (GAU) was happy to negotiate at the Impact Bargaining table to earn our members protective equipment, expedited grievance processes, extended pandemic related sick-pay protections, extra sick days, and timesheet recordkeeping reviews.

In Spring 2021, we returned to Impact Bargaining and fought to keep those pandemic related provisions in place, for the safety of our members and all Graduate Assistants campus-wide.

In March, GAU (along with other constituency groups) consulted with the University about extending the pass/no pass (or satisfactory/unsatisfactory) grading option for students. We advocated for it to be extended through summer 2021. So far, the University has agreed to extend it through the spring '21 semester. Additionally, the University has extended the raised bursar limit from \$200 to \$1500, meaning you can sign up for fall classes even if you owe up to \$1500 on your bursar bill.

Most importantly, GAU has maintained the ability to continue Impact Bargaining for the health of our members if they continue to be affected by pandemic related issues.

GAU Elections

Members Can Vote at May meeting

As involved and active members of Graduate Assistants United, I wanted to inform you that GAU will be holding our spring elections for Executive Officers this May.

The positions up for election include:

- President
- Vice President for Membership
- Vice President for Communication
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Steward Council Chair
- Grievance Committee Chair

To learn more about these positions please visit <https://gaunited.org/by-laws/>

If you are interested in being nominated for any position, please contact Madelyn Fox Defago at membership.gau.siuc@gmail.com to have your name included on the ballot.

Be Part of the Collective Bargaining Team! GAU Looking to Negotiate New Contract this Summer!

Have you ever wanted to help the union and be seated at the bargaining table negotiating the contract for hundreds of Graduate Assistants? Now is your chance!

This summer the GAU contract is up for negotiation and you can be part of the team fighting for more rights for your fellow Grad Assistants!

If you are interested in being considered for the Collective Bargaining Team, please contact Anna Wilcoxon at gau.siuc@gmail.com.

Virtual Valentine's Trivia 90's Rom-Coms, Show Tickets, and Sweet Swag

On February 10th, GAU organized a virtual Valentine's Trivia event. Great fun was had by all as our trivia competitors slugged it out! You can't go wrong with Romantic Comedies from the 1990's. All in all, a slew of prizes were at stake and our winners took home some sweet swag including Saluki gear and facemasks and even some tickets to the Stage Company's production of *The Revolutionists*.

Listening and Learning Session Graduate Students Share Perspectives and Concerns

On February 18th, GAU hosted a Graduate Student only listening session with SIUC Chancellor Austin A. Lane. Members and students were able to provide their perspectives on what was and was not working at SIU, and what improvements could be made to better the experience of being a GA at SIU. Topics involved: student healthcare, student fees, Assistant pay, the need for more faculty hires, and how the shortage has limited course and Graduate committee choices.

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. It's that easy!



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