

April 24, 2026

Dear UW President Dr. Robert Jones & Board of Regents,

My name is Abigail Bormann, I am the president of Sno-Isle Libraries Employees United (SILEU) Local 73. I am contacting you today to express our support of the University of Washington Libraries and Press Employees, represented by SEIU 925, in obtaining a fair contract as soon as possible. For Libraries and Press employees this includes better pay, layoff and DEI protections, and equity for Professional Libraries Employees (PLEs).

UWLU has been in bargaining since October 2025 and their contract expired at the end of January 2026. UW delaying the contract bargaining process with hardline tactics that create hardships for its crucial employees is both unreasonable and unnecessary. As library workers, we know that libraries are a vital third space in our communities and that libraries cannot function without workers. As lovers of the written word, we know that university presses are essential to sharing stories, knowledge, and new discoveries often overlooked by other publishers, especially stories that define our region and its peoples. Without press employees we would not have access to these stories.

However, it's clear that the University of Washington does not fairly value this work. 1% raises are not enough for staff to keep up with inflation. The Consumer Price Index for the Seattle area puts inflation for the region much higher than 1% - refusing to meet at least the June to June CPIU of 2.7% is a clear sign that the University does not have the best interests of its valued employees at heart. PLEs and librarians often have to move farther from campus to afford housing, can't make student loan payments, and can't pay for food without assistance programs like food stamps. UW Librarians and PLEs deserve better than this – after all, it is their work that makes student success, learning, and engagement possible for your campus.

We fully support the UW Libraries and Press Union in their fight for a fair contract. Our organization, Sno-Isle Libraries Employees United Local 73 - and our membership of 260+ unionized library employees are ready to amplify and stand with UW Librarians and PLEs. With the contract expired, it is imperative that UW management agrees to a fair contract without delay. A contract with fair compensation, layoff and DEI protections, and PLE equity.

Sincerely,

Abigail Bormann

& The SILEU Local 73 Executive Board