

April 30, 2026

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

I am writing on behalf of more than 5,000 members of the Washington Public Employees Association, UFCW Local 365, 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. WPEA represents librarians and classified staff at regional libraries, and classified staff at 15 community colleges, including library workers. Our members know the value of the work that the members of UWLU do, and we stand in solidarity with the Libraries and Press employees in their fight for better pay, layoff and DEI protections, and equity for Professional Libraries Employees.

College libraries and presses are vital: they serve as welcoming third spaces in our communities; they nurture learning, curiosity, and discovery; and they publish and share stories, books, and ideas that would otherwise go overlooked or be lost. All of this is made possible by the hardworking, dedicated human beings who show up to serve the college communities and the broader public.

Unfortunately, the University of Washington does not seem to value this work. 1% raises are not enough for staff to keep up with inflation. 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. And if UW Librarians and PLEs don't have fair working conditions, student and community learning and engagement WILL suffer, too.

Our members know that public employees love their jobs, and library and press workers are no different; they love helping people find what they need, providing vital information, and serving the public broadly. But dedicated public service workers still need to eat, they still need to pay rent, and they still deserve to be treated fairly.

That's why WPEA fully supports the UW Libraries and Press Union in their fight for a fair contract. 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.

In Solidarity,

Amanda Hacker, President  
Washington Public Employees Association, UFCW Local 365