

To: Graduate and Professional Students

From: John L. Jackson, Jr., PhD, Provost
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Subject: Union Petition Update

You may recall that last fall a petition was filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) seeking an election to determine whether the United Auto Workers (UAW) should represent a unit of Penn graduate and professional students.

On March 19, 2024, the NLRB issued a decision directing that all graduate and professional students who are included in the bargaining unit have the opportunity to vote on whether they want to be represented by the UAW. The NLRB decision defines the bargaining unit as follows:

INCLUDED: All graduate and professional students who provide research or instructional services for the University, including those who serve as Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows, Research Assistants, Research Fellows, Pre-Doctoral Trainees, and Student Workers employed by the Employer at its Philadelphia, PA University.

EXCLUDED: All other employees, students pursuing professional degrees in the Veterinary School, the Dental School, and the Medical School with the exception of professional students in those programs who are pursuing a joint degree and who qualify for inclusion by virtue of their research or instructional service for the University in conjunction with their other graduate or professional program, Educational Fellowship Recipients, guards and supervisors as defined in the Act.

The secret ballot election will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 and Wednesday, April 17, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM in Bodek Lounge, which is on the first floor of Houston Hall.

Between now and the election, we encourage all graduate and professional students who are eligible to vote to learn as much as possible about this significant issue.

A simple majority of those who vote in the election will determine the outcome. Therefore, we encourage all graduate and professional students who are eligible to vote to do so.

At Penn, we engage as a community to advance what is important to us all – a dynamic and supportive academic environment. Additional information and resources can be found at: <https://valuing-grad-students.upenn.edu>.