

Dear Colleagues:

Our correspondent from yesterday has wisely articulated another important issue related to the large courses that your Task Force seems to have primarily focused on.

In their words, speaking of the original plan laid out by the provost:

There is no discussion of our responsibilities to graduate students in the plan, nor any concern for their perspectives. This does not reflect the reality of teaching large lecture classes at UIC where TA's are our partners in teaching. We are responsible for providing them with guidance and training during the semester. Decisions about courses should be made between the instructors and the TA's in ways that work for everyone running the course.

A wide variety of issues flow from this paragraph, including:

*UICUF continues to fight against the idea of uncompensated labor being imposed on faculty without bargaining (much more on this foundational issue from the union on this quite soon!). In the same way, we cannot ask our already severely underpaid graduate students to do the kind of unpaid summer labor necessary for the success of our large fall courses.

*Why are graduate student voices not formally represented in this Task Force? Lacking direct representation, what are the mechanisms that the Task Force has developed for the inclusion of their perspectives? It's not too late to remedy this extremely problematic lack of democracy and inclusion. Always, always: the more wise voices, the better.

No letter tomorrow, both because we again deserve to start the weekend early, and because I'll be off for the celebration of Shavuot. Chag sameach!

With best wishes,

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