



Dear President Ray,

On behalf of over 1,800 hard-working Oregonians represented by our union we are writing today to ask you to reach a fair contract with the United Academics of Oregon State University (UAOSU) that respects the hard work and dedication of OSU faculty members, and recognizes their contributions. OSU's teaching, research, and extension faculty are at the heart of OSU's mission and commitment to their students and to the state of Oregon. After more than a year of negotiating, it is time to settle an agreement that recognizes their value.

We know that we're not alone in sharing our concerns about the outstanding issues in their contract negotiations, particularly in light of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. Many SEIU 503 workers are on the frontlines, assuring that the university maintains critical functions. We know UAOSU's members are also hard at work to do the same. Working without a contract during a public health crisis increases anxiety and instability. OSU can demonstrate its commitment to the faculty members who are working hard to fulfill the university's mission even now by reaching an agreement that addresses their most pressing needs, particularly a family and medical leave policy that goes beyond the sixty hours that you know to be insufficient and inequitable.

As we saw in our prolonged bargaining session last year, working without a contract and lengthy bargaining takes a toll on workers. Classified workers came together and pushed for one of the best contracts in years. We held strong with support from all the unions on campus. Now we stand in solidarity with UAOSU. We hope that OSU can change course, especially in light of Covid-19, and settle a fair contract.

We urge OSU management to settle a fair contract with UAOSU that provides faculty members with greatly needed stability and certainty. As we begin to address the unprecedented challenges that face us, we believe that OSU can emerge stronger only through collaboration and cooperation with its faculty members. Now is the time for all Oregonians to stand together and support one another--the way to support your faculty members is to reach a fair agreement.

Sincerely,

Mark Dunbar, President, SEIU Local 503, Sublocal 083 OSU
Noah McKay-Robinson, Vice President, SEIU Local 503, Sublocal 083 OSU

Cc: OSU Board of Trustees, United Academics of OSU