

April 14, 2015

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UAW Local 4121 Holds Strike Vote, Protest at University of Washington

Union Members Take Action to Stop UW from Charging Fees to Students Whose Work Drives University Research/Teaching Missions

- **Monday, April 13th - Tuesday, April 21st** Strike Authorization Vote
- **Friday, April 17 at 2:00 p.m.** Protest at Schmitz Hall, UW campus (1400 NE Campus Parkway)

Over 4,000 Academic Student Employees (ASEs) at the University of Washington started voting Monday, April 13th to authorize their union bargaining committee to call a strike if circumstances warrant. On Friday April 17th, the day fees and tuition are due, union members will also take public action at Schmitz Hall on the UW Seattle campus to protest the University's requirement that part of their wages get repaid in the form of student fees.

"The fact that the people that pay us then turn around and demand back nearly a full paycheck every year in mandatory fees is ridiculous," says Anthony Castanza, Research Assistant in the School of Medicine. "No other employees have to do this. Then when they propose increasing the amount we're forced to pay back even further, we're taking a pay cut"

Hundreds of ASEs and supporters are expected to surround Schmitz Hall with picket signs on Friday. The action will take place in the midst of a week-long strike authorization vote.

"Our members are agitated, frustrated, and impatient," says Liz Mills, UAW 4121 Bargaining Committee member and Research Assistant in The Information School. "We've held several recent demonstrations that have been successful in creating changes at the University. We've pressed to improve instructional quality, and made progress on minimum wage with coalition partners on campus. Now we're ready to take further action."

Academic Student Employees provide over one-half of the instructional contact hours with undergraduates – and work over 1.4 million hours per year – while also conducting much of the research that enables UW to bring over \$1.5 billion per year in grants and contracts.