

TO PROFESSORS

EMAIL TEMPLATE TO SEND TO YOUR PROFESSORS

Our professors are ALSO unionized workers on campus! They can stand in solidarity with OSEs too, especially if their students are asking them to! If you have any classes the week of the strike, send the following email to your professors asking them to reach out to admin before the deadline and cancel classes if WWU doesn't recognize OSEs BEFORE the strike deadline.

Fill in the parts in [brackets] before sending to your professor.

To	
Cc	
Bcc	
Subject	Operational Student Employee Strike

Dear Professor,

I'm writing to let you know that the student-worker union, WAWU-UAW, is on strike effective yesterday May 28th. This strike will continue unless the WWU Administration agrees to recognize Operational Student Employees (OSEs) and apply the Educational Student Employee (ESE) contract protections. I hope to be standing in solidarity, joining my fellow students out on strike.

Admin has been mischaracterizing the OSE strike as 'unrecognized' or a 'work stoppage.' I want to be very clear that OSEs are on strike and that is no such thing as a 'recognized strike.' Their strike has been sanctioned by the Northwest Washington Central labor council, the Teamsters, and the United Autoworkers and has been supported by the AS and city council. The only group who is denying recognition of a strike, and also of their union is university administration.

As you probably know, WAWU-UAW OSEs are the collective body of the 1,200 student employees who did NOT win a contract last year. Together, OSEs in workplaces across campus have made it very clear that we want to form a union with WAWU/UAW and negotiate a contract with WWU. **Over the past 16 months, a**

majority of OSEs have demonstrated and voiced our need for a union three (3) times. The first two times through authorization cards and this third time through their recent strike authorization vote. **As VP Lopes noted in her email, the administration has agreed to pay equity with ESE peers after speaking with our bargaining committee this past summer.** This means that there will likely be little to no new costs if the terms of the ESE Collective Bargaining Agreement were to be applied to OSEs. What they are fighting for is the [contract protections](#) that ESEs receive, including 30 day layoff protections, sick leave accrual, guaranteed paid training, and a legitimate grievance method through which they can hold the university accountable. OSEs are fighting for the same rights that any and all workers should have at the negotiating table. Particularly at this time, **it is a deeply problematic position for the university administration to deny valued workers these protections, especially when doing so will have little to no fiscal impact.**

Student labor helps Western run every day, and their contributions are vital to our experiences as students here at Western. Western should pay them living wages, so education can continue to be accessible to everyone rather than the privileged few. As students, we are proud of our peers who are joining the tradition of WWU professors, permanent staff, custodians and facilities workers, who have all formed unions and fought for better conditions, because one of the most important ways to protect the future of accessible, quality public education is to support the people who make it run.

An equal contract is essential for student worker well-being and their ability to do work with the quality and dedication that we as their students and peers deserve. It's disappointing that even after months of negotiations, the University Administration refuses to recognize their majority.

Student workers understand that a strike will likely cause difficulty, and remain open to further dialogue and negotiation with the Administration to reach a resolution at any point. However, if their concerns are not adequately addressed, they will continue with the strike as planned.

They are asking faculty members to support in three ways, and I encourage you to do them:

- 1. Reach out to the WWU Administration ASAP and ask them to grant OSEs equity with ESEs ([template email here](#)),** especially on the critical issues of sick leave, workplace safety, and layoff protections. Let them know it is critical to agree to a contract that appropriately reflects the importance of the work done by OSEs at WWU. Convey the
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importance of reaching agreement on a fair contract quickly due to the impact of a work stoppage in your workplace.

2. While OSEs go on strike, **please do not do any of their labor.** For too long, their work has been invisible to the WWU Administration, and rather than stepping in to complete their work, we urge you to reach out to the Administration and let them know the impact and importance of OSE labor.

3. OSEs are asking all members of the WWU community to **refuse to cross their picket lines** during the strike and voluntarily withhold their own paid labor from WWU. They have the support of hundreds of unionized workers across Western, and we believe that if we all stand together, we can show Western the value of all its workers' labor, and that an injury to one is an injury to all. **Please consider cancelling class in solidarity with OSEs so all of us can join the picket lines** (5AM - 9PM, every weekday).

4. Consider donating to the OSE [hardship fund](#)

We appreciate your support and hope for a swift and fair resolution to this matter.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]
