

APID/A Resource Guide on the U-M Strike

Last updated 12/13/2020

The U-M APID/A Staff Association Core Team has compiled a shortlist of information around the timeline, (re)sources, list of GEO actions, and statements of support. In recognition of the precarity of staff, we provide this as a resource to help APID/A staff process information around recent events on an individual level. Although the strike has ended, there is value in contextualizing how the University arrived at this ‘fractured’ moment and we recognize that these challenges and movements are ongoing.

The following links should not be considered all encompassing nor representative of the APID/A Staff Association’s views. Instead, they may provide insight into how our communities are experiencing life on campus during these times. Things have been moving fast and are seemingly changing by the hour, so we apologize if some of these resources may be out of date. If you have documents that you feel can help provide additional insight please email apida-core@umich.edu and use the subject line “APID/A Strike Resource Guide.”

Background

- The [Graduate Employees’ Organization](#) (GEO) organized a strike that started after Labor Day on September 8, 2020 and ended on September 16. The strike coincided with the [#ScholarStrike](#) and [Abolitionist Strike](#), which are meant to center anti-racist movements and demands. GEO had been striking for 12-hours per day. They have notably been supporting quarantined students donating supplies to them on North Campus.
- This is the second strike that has taken place at U-M. [The first took place in 1975](#) and was also organized by GEO.
- The state of Michigan has been historically unfriendly to teacher strikes, however [‘illegal’ strikes have been common in the state](#).
- [Numerous undergraduates have stood in solidarity with GEO and have skipped classes so they don’t cross the picket line](#) (see GEO List of Possible Actions in Solidarity to learn more about picketing and what crossing the picket line means when many of us are working remotely).

Timeline (view an interactive graphic)

- 12/3 [GEO Campus Talk Back](#) (#6 live stream)
- 11/23 [The Neoliberal University panel](#)
- 11/19 [All Campus Labor Council hosts Alternative Regents Meeting](#)
- 11/19 [GEO Campus Talk Back formerly the "Covid Response Panel"](#) (#5 live stream)
- 11/18 [U-M to pay \\$9.5M settlement to victims of alleged sexual misconduct by former provost](#)
- 11/16 [Why the strike must be abolitionist](#)
- 11/12 [GEO Covid Response Panel](#) (#4 live stream)
- 11/8 [Vigil and march for Aura Rosser](#)
- 11/6 [After 'unacceptable level' of COVID-19 cases this Fall, U-M makes changes for Winter semester](#)
- 11/5 [GEO Covid Response Panel](#) (#3 live stream)
- 11/2 [Emergency General Meeting vote to nonviolent action and general protest in the event that Donald Trump refuses to accept the results of the election](#)
- 10/30 [Open letter and Petition to President Schlissel and Provost Susan Collins Concerning Winter Term 2021](#)
- 10/30 [Townies to Schlissel: You're a Murderer](#)
- 10/28 [GEO Covid Response Panel](#) (#2 live stream)
- 10/27 [U-M Faculty continue to push for demands related to public health, sexual misconduct, and policing](#)
- 10/26 [Solidarity petition #UMCourage to recognize the harm caused by Martin Philbert and Robert Anderson](#)
- 10/26 [Launch of GEO Feminist Caucus](#)
- 10/24 [Northwood Housing Open Letter](#)
- 10/20 [GEO COVID-19 Caucus Statement on Stay-In-Place Order](#)
- 10/20 [GEO Covid Response Panel](#) (#1 live stream)
- 10/20 [Washtenaw County issues two-week stay home order for U-M students](#)
- 10/16 [Quarantine housing spikes as 'U' cases cross 1,000 since start of the school year](#)
- 10/11 [MDining petition to not open dine in for students](#)
- 10/6 [ResStaff receive notification of three clusters that follows two other clusters](#)
- 10/6 [The RC Podcast "U-M Works Because We Do"](#)
- 10/2 [Washtenaw County COVID-19 cases exceed U-M threshold](#)
- 9/30 [School of Social Work students and faculty call for Dean to resign](#)
- 9/24 [U-M adds outside testing counts to its COVID-19 dashboard](#)
- 9/23 [The Michigan Daily Recap Video of the GEO Strike](#)
- 9/22 [Black Town Hall held by the Black GEO Coalition](#)
- 9/22 [RA's reach deal with University](#)
- 9/18 [Faculty Senate vote of no confidence passes, Regents backs Schlissel](#)

- 9/17 [U-M staff publish open letter](#)
- 9/16 [GEO votes on 2nd U-M offer and accepts thus ending the strike](#)
- 9/16 [GEO offers morning press conference to elaborate on anti-policing demands](#)
- 9/16 [Faculty Senate vote of no confidence](#) (not finalized until Friday; votes still pending)
- 9/15 [SMTD students organize to send a list of demands to the department](#)
- 9/15 5:30pm [GEO Townhall for U-M Staff](#) (notes)
- 9/15 10:00am [Schlissel/Collins/Page conversation](#)
- 9/14 [U-M files a restraining order and injunction against GEO](#)
- 9/13 [GEO votes to extend the strike for a week through 9/18/2020](#)
- 9/11 [U-M Dining student staff shifts from walk-out to a slow-down](#)
- 9/10 [U-M Dining Hall student staff organize a walk-out](#)
- 9/9 [GEO votes to reject U-M offer and continue the strike through Friday](#)
- 9/9 [Resident Advisors in University Housing announce strike](#)
- 9/8 [U-M files unfair labor practice charge against the union](#)
- 9/8 [Central Student Government unanimously supports graduate student strike](#)
- **9/8 GEO goes on strike**
- 9/7 [LEO announces support for the strike](#)
- 9/7 GEO votes to strike for 4-days starting on Sep. 8
- 9/7 [UAAO among other multicultural student activist orgs demand the end of the Ambassadors program](#)
- 8/31 [GEO stages 'die-in' to protest fall reopening](#)
- 8/28 [SACUA \(Faculty Senate\) considers vote of no confidence](#)
- 8/27 [Anonymous staff member publishes Op-Ed citing potential fiduciary influences to reopen amongst numerous examples of Schlissel's inconsistencies](#)
- 8/7 [GEO members protest for 'safe and just' pandemic response](#)
- 6/2020 - 9/2020 Informal graduate parent caucus forms to surface unaddressed hurdles of parenting while being a student
- 5/2020 - GEO forms COVID-19 Response Team and conducts safety survey

For ongoing updates, visit the following student social accounts:

- [Dining Hall Twitter](#)
- [ResStaff Instagram](#)
- [ResStaff Twitter](#)
- [GEO Twitter](#)
- [GEO Instagram](#)
- [Tri Campus Coalition Twitter](#)

(Re)sources

- [Six Reflections on an Abolitionist Strike at the University of Michigan](#) (9/30)
- [Students Demand Representation Linktr.ee](#)

- [GEO Demands](#)
- [GEO Anti-Policing Demands FAQ](#)
- [GEO Info for Undergraduate Students](#)
- [GEO Post for Parents of Undergrads](#)
- Wikipedia - [2020 Graduate Student Strike](#)
- Professor Kentaro Toyama - [“Two Crises”](#)
- [Faculty Senate Agenda - Vote of No Confidence](#)
 - [A Grad Strike, a Court Fight, a No Confidence Vote: U-M Struggles Over Its Campus Reopening](#) (9/16) - The Chronicle
 - [Questions loom over Faculty Senate’s vote of no confidence in President Mark Schlissel](#) (9/16) - The Michigan Daily
 - [Faculty Senate vote of no confidence passes. Regents backs Schlissel](#) (9/18) - Detroit Free Press
- [U-M Budget in light of COVID-19](#)
- Upcoming Webinar [Untenured: Tools for Student Affairs Professionals in the Midst of a Crisis](#) **September 24, 2020, 3:00 - 4:00 pm (ET)**

List of Possible Actions in Solidarity

- [GEO Communications Request](#) form
- [Open letter and Petition to President Schlissel and Provost Susan Collins Concerning Winter Term 2021](#)
- [Solidarity petition #UMCourage to recognize the harm caused by Martin Philbert and Robert Anderson](#)
- [Northwood Housing Open Letter](#)
- [MDining petition to not open dine in for students](#)
- [Stand Up For MDining Workers](#) letter
- [Demand Safer Working Conditions for MDining Workers](#) petition
- Signature Line - adjust your signature line to say you stand in solidarity with GEO
 - [Upside down block M](#)
- [Donate](#)
- Slow-down / Sick-out
- [Sign-up for an in-person/virtual picket shift](#)
 - [What’s picketing or a picket line?](#)
 - *How does it work virtually?* According to GEO representatives, crossing the picket line means showing up to work even virtually. If you are attending an online meeting or carrying out the operations of the University then you are crossing the line.
 - *What’s GEO stance?* According to GEO representatives, they seek solidarity to not cross the picket line in order to create disruption in order to quickly and safely return to normal operations.

- [RA Phone Zap Script](#)
- [U-M staff unionizing interest form](#)
- [Student organizing template](#)
- Email umgeo@geo3550.org if a student needs advocacy or if you'd like to be kept informed of advocacy and actions around campus
- **Hashtags:** #StrikeForSafeCampus #UMMakesUsSick #NotDyingforMDining

Statements of Support

- [Undocumented Students Letter of Appreciation to GEO](#) (9/23)
- [Washtenaw County Health Department's Health for All Steering Committee](#) (9/21)
- [Department of Asian Languages and Cultures Letter on GEO Negotiations](#) (9/20)
- [Sociology Faculty Letter](#) (9/18)
- [U-M Staff Solidarity Letter](#) (9/18)
- [LEO Statement on GEO Ending Strike](#) (9/17)
- [Taubman College](#) (9/16)
- [Statement from SEAS Faculty](#)
- [Political Science Letter to U-M Administration](#) (9/16)
- [English Faculty Letter to President Schlissel and Provost Collins](#) (9/15)
- [Anthropology Faculty Letter](#) (9/15)
- [Statement from Romance Languages and Literatures](#)
- [Statement from History Faculty](#)
- [CompLit faculty statement of solidarity](#) (9/15)
- [Alumni statement of support](#)
- [DAAS statement of support](#) (9/15)
- [Faculty letter supporting GEO](#) (9/11)
- [Central Student Government unanimously supports graduate student strike](#) (9/8)
- [LEO Statement on UM Transparency and Workplace Democracy](#) (9/4)