



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

Res 31815

Record No.: Res 31815

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 1

Ord. no:

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 05/21/2018

Final Action: 05/21/2018

Title: A RESOLUTION urging the University of Washington to swiftly arrive at a fair and equitable contract with its academic student employees.

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors:

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: Emilia.Sanchez@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

Yes

No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	05/21/2018	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text:	The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office					
	Notes:						
1	Council President's Office	05/21/2018	sent for review	City Council			
	Action Text:	The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the City Council					
	Notes:						
1	City Council	05/21/2018	referred	City Council			
	Action Text:	The Resolution (Res) was referred. to the City Council					
	Notes:						
1	City Council	05/21/2018	adopted				Pass
	Action Text:	The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:					
	Notes:	Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31815.					

Legislative Summary Continued (Res 31815)

In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember González , Council
President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Johnson,
Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember
O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

1 City Clerk 05/21/2018 attested by City Clerk
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.
Notes:

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31815

A RESOLUTION urging the University of Washington to swiftly arrive at a fair and equitable contract with its academic student employees.

WHEREAS, the University of Washington (UW) is a premiere, dynamic, world-class public institution and the second-largest employer in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, UAW Local 4121 represents the 4,500 academic student employees (ASEs) on the University of Washington's (UW) campuses in Seattle, Tacoma, and Bothell, including research assistants, teaching assistants, graders, and tutors; and

WHEREAS, members of UAW Local 4121 report that, after four months of negotiations, UW has not agreed to a contract that meets their needs; and

WHEREAS, ASEs perform essential instructional and research work at UW, advancing scientific and humanistic knowledge, contributing to the intellectual and cultural life of Seattle and the region, and attracting investment from the federal government and industries, all contributing to the economic growth, ecological sustainability, social justice, and community development of Seattle and the region; and

WHEREAS, according to the UW 2017-2018 base rate salary schedule, ASEs are paid as little as \$20,655 for a nine-month appointment, out of which they must pay back \$951 in fees to the UW as a condition of employment; and

WHEREAS, ASEs at UW report that this low pay and mandatory fees, along with the rising cost of living in the Puget Sound area, have made it increasingly difficult for them to survive economically at UW; and

1 WHEREAS, according to a membership survey conducted by UAW Local 4121 last fall, the
2 average ASE pays 44 percent of their income for housing, 82 percent are rent-burdened,
3 and the majority of UW's ASEs make ends meet by cutting costs on food, clothing, child
4 care, and other basic necessities; and

5 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council recognizes the urgent need for housing affordable to
6 workers including the ASEs at UW; and

7 WHEREAS, the UW core values statement emphasizes a commitment to "recruit the best, most
8 diverse and innovative faculty and staff from around the world, encouraging a vibrant
9 intellectual community for our students;" and

10 WHEREAS, ASEs argue that fair pay and fee waivers are necessary to prevent the further
11 gentrification of graduate education, so that people from low-income and working
12 families, women, people of color, queer and trans people, immigrants, and working
13 parents have a sustainable opportunity to earn advanced degrees and further contribute to
14 their communities; and

15 WHEREAS, after four months of contract negotiations, on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, thousands of
16 UAW Local 4121 members held a one-day strike to demand better pay and fee waivers to
17 keep pace with the region's rising cost of living; and

18 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council is concerned that if UW and UAW Local 4121 do not
19 reach an agreement, ASEs may be forced to strike again this spring, potentially disrupting
20 classes and even final exams; NOW, THEREFORE,

21 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

1 Section 1. The Seattle City Council affirms that all workers in Seattle, including
2 academic student employees (ASEs) at the University of Washington (UW), should be paid a
3 living wage.

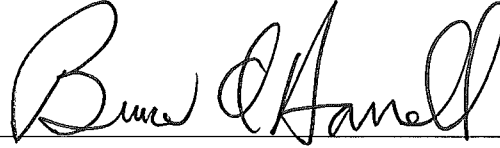
4 Section 2. The Seattle City Council urges UW leadership to reach a fair and equitable
5 contract agreement with the members of UAW Local 4121 that addresses ASEs concerns about
6 pay, fees, and affordability at UW.

7 Section 3. The Seattle City Council requests that the Office of Intergovernmental
8 Relations communicate the content of this resolution to UW representatives.

1 Adopted by the City Council the 21st day of May, 2018,

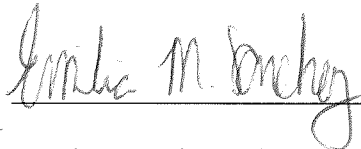
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 21st day of

3 May, 2018.

4 

5 President _____ of the City Council

6 Filed by me this 21st day of May, 2018.

7 

8 for Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

9 (Seal)