

Boston University Office of the Provost



Dr. Kenneth Lutchen, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer *ad interim*

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March 19, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians of Boston University Undergraduate Students,

Last year, over 3,300 of our 18,000 graduate students formed a labor union– the Boston University Graduate Workers Union (“BUGWU”). The union includes all graduate student workers who are performing research or teaching work for the University.

BUGWU has recently voted to authorize a strike by graduate workers in the union. They have notified the University that the strike may begin on Monday, March 25. We do not yet know if the strike will occur, or which graduate student workers may strike if it does occur.

If the union does go on strike, although we may need to make adjustments to teaching staff and courses, we expect – *and will do everything we can* – to ensure our undergraduate students’ education proceeds smoothly. Their education is the centerpiece of what we do at Boston University, and there are robust plans in place to ensure the academic experience of our students continues uninterrupted during the period of the strike.

We also want you to know that we seek to arrive at an agreement with our graduate workers and hope we can do so soon. The students in BUGWU are also our students, and we care deeply about their success and working life at Boston University and seek to create conditions that will support their progress. We have made significant offers that we hope will lead to a resolution, including improved stipend payments, a dental insurance option, and better subsidies for public transportation.

Going forward, we will update you on any developments from the potential strike that could affect our students’ education or experience at BU. For more information, I encourage you to visit [our website](#) where we offer resources and provide updates. With goodwill and perseverance, we hope to come to an agreement with the union very soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KL", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kenneth Lutchen  
University Provost and Chief Academic Officer *ad interim*