

Dr. Gloria Waters, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer

One Silber Way
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
T 617-353-2230 F 617-353-6580
www.bu.edu/provost

August 7, 2024

Dear Graduate Students,

I am writing as the new University provost to check in with our non-PhD graduate students that were part of the BU Graduate Workers Union (BUGWU) either in the spring semester or the summer term(s). Although my role is wide-ranging, providing an enriching and supportive educational experience for our graduate students is an important priority for me.

Concluding a contract with BUGWU is one piece of my strategy to enhance and advance graduate education at BU. In this context, I attended the BUGWU bargaining session this afternoon (Wednesday, August 7) to personally present a final [comprehensive package](#) – one designed to address the concerns most widely expressed by our graduate workers during prior bargaining sessions. You can read more about the proposal and negotiations in in [BU Today](#). If this final offer is ratified into a contract and you work in a teaching or research role, you would be entitled to the following pay and benefits in the fall 2024 semester:

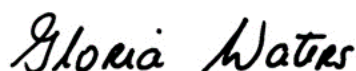
- 1) A **minimum hourly rate of at least \$20/hour** for hourly-paid graduate students;
- 2) A five-year total contract with annual hourly rate increases of 3% per year;
- 3) **14 weeks of childcare leave** for non-PhD students who are paid full-time stipends and are new parents, along with a **\$3,500 per year childcare subsidy**;
- 4) **Either a 50% MBTA annual subsidy or bicycle commuter reimbursement benefits**;
- 5) **Access to an annual help fund of \$200,000** to support graduate students with emergency funding needs.

I have asked the BUGWU bargaining team to put forward our final proposal for a ratification vote, although it is up to them and the union whether they will do that. **We will continue to bargain directly with the BUGWU bargaining team in good faith, but I believe it is important that we resolve the contract so that these benefits can be put into place as soon as possible during this academic year.**

I hope – no matter your perspective on what the University has to offer – that you will be engaged in these ongoing conversations and communicate with your bargaining representatives so that all student voices can be represented in our final contract.

Thank you for your many contributions to our vibrant academic community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gloria Waters".

Gloria Waters, PhD
University Provost and Chief Academic Officer

