

JULY 2025 AT A GLANCE

STANFORD GRADUATE WORKERS UNION • Jul 31, 2025

This month, the Stanford Graduate Workers Union (SGWU) worked on key issues affecting graduate workers. We created resources to fight the **graduate housing mail fee**, raised your concerns about the new **Cardinal Care** to Stanford administrators, and met with Stanford to discuss the status of the **five-year funding guarantee** amid shrinking federal research support.

We also won important grievances, such as **getting members reinstated or paid in full after canceled TAs** and **helping grad workers receive Emergency-Grant-In-Aid** funding after their application was denied in violation of the ADA.

Finally, SGWU members voted to bind our 11 delegates to the Build, Win Lead slate at the **UE National Officer Elections**.



Announcements

🔴 Build Win Lead wins SGWU votes at UE National Elections

🟡 Answers on Cardinal Care

🟢 Answers on the Funding Guarantee

🟣 Emergency Grant-in-Aid survey



General Membership Meeting Recap

✅ Passed by members

👤 New stewards

👤 Raise an issue



Know Your Contract Benefits

✂️ Travel reimbursement, time off for visas, and more!

💡 Get your free Caltrain GoPass!



Grievance Wins



Website Updates



Financial Resources



Standing Committee Updates

🤝 Membership Building

💻 Data + Tech

🎥 Communications



Mark your calendar!



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Announcements

Build Win Lead wins SGWU votes at UE National Elections

- The SGWU Local Executive Board (LEB) has voted to unanimously endorse the Build Win Lead slate and is excited to support Scott, Kim, and Andrew. Full endorsement [here](#).
- SGWU members voted 93% to 7% to support the Build Win Lead slate over the Uniting All Workers slate in the UE national elections.
- Based on this result, we will be binding all our local's 11 national convention delegates to vote for the Build Win Lead slate at the UE convention in August.

Answers on Cardinal Care

- Stanford is making significant changes to Cardinal Care for the next academic year, starting 9/1/2025. Read our summary [here](#). Premiums will increase by 8% and copays for typical visits (e.g. primary care, specialist care) will increase from \$25 to \$35.
- On 7/20/2025, SGWU met with Stanford administrators to discuss your concerns. You can read those notes [here](#).
- To summarize, there will be a 6 month buffer period for transition of care if your ongoing healthcare provider does not accept the new insurance. Stanford directed students to

call Vaden or submit a ServiceNow ticket for Cardinal Care related questions. Stanford claimed they have little control over insurance premium and copay costs.

- Stanford also promised to follow up with additional guidance on the usage of Emergency Grant-in-Aid to cover medical costs. Read our note below about EGIA!

Answers on the Funding Guarantee

- Amid federal funding cuts, the university reaffirmed that students remain covered under the five-year funding guarantee as long as they are in **“good academic standing,”** which usually means **having an advisor committed to funding them.**
- SGWU raised concerns over cases of harassment and abuse, as well as difficulty of matching with advisors in light of funding constraints. See our notes [here](#).
- If you are worried about your funding, reach out to a departmental steward or contact@sgwu.us. Additionally, Stanford admin recommended students contact their department’s Director of Graduate Study.

Emergency Grant-in-Aid survey

- Per our contract with Stanford, the University shall maintain a number of **financial assistance programs** for graduate students, which can help cover **healthcare costs**. SGWU is

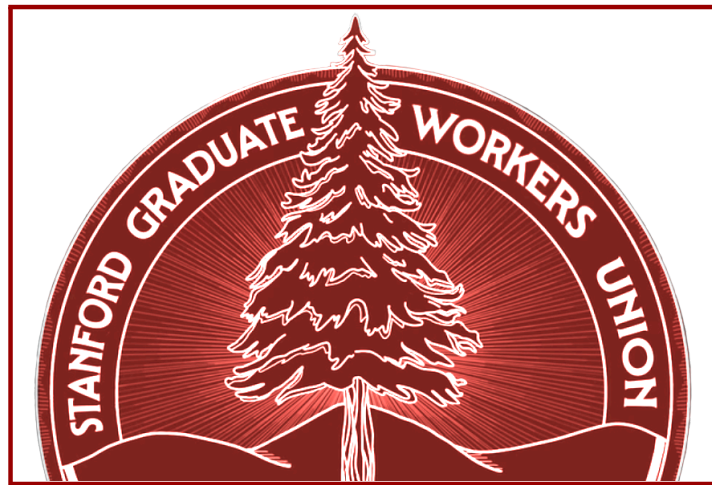
collecting information on program use and application outcomes.

- Please [fill out this form](#) if you've had experience applying/receiving aid from the following programs: [Emergency Grant-in-Aid](#), [Graduate Student Aid Fund](#), [Graduate Family Grant](#)
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General Membership Meeting Recap

The Stanford Graduate Workers Union (SGWU) held its General Membership Meeting on **July 23, 2025**, to discuss key issues affecting graduate workers and share important union updates. Topics included the new **graduate housing mail fee**, changes to **Cardinal Care** health insurance, and the **five-year funding guarantee** amid shrinking federal research support. Members also heard about recent **grievance wins**, participated in **steward elections**, reviewed **Slack community guidelines**, and learned about the upcoming **UE National Officer Elections**.



✓ Passed by members

Build Win Lead slate to receive all 11 delegate votes at the UE National Election.

SGWU members passed our Slack Community Guidelines

MORE DETAILS:

[LEB Endorsement of Build Win Lead Slate](#)

[Slack Community Guidelines](#)

👤 New stewards

Please welcome our new stewards, Tom Liu (Sciences), Joyce An (MSCE), Tristan Heck (Sciences), Tom Ladendorf (Humanities), Shantanu Nevrekar (Social Sciences)

If you're interested in becoming a union steward and helping to enforce our contract, please attend a steward training.

MORE DETAILS:

[Stewards Training RSVP](#)

🗣️ Raise an issue

At GMM, we discussed the new graduate housing **mail fee**, changes to **Cardinal Care** health insurance, and the five-year **funding guarantee**.

All rank-and-file members are welcome to raise discussion topics for GMMs!

MORE DETAILS:

[Mail Fee Emails and Flyers](#)

[Submit Issues Here](#)



Know Your Contract Benefits

Know Your Contract: Summer Highlights


Graduate workers! You are entitled to...

- reimbursement for appointment-related travel
- request 5 business days of time off without loss of pay to attend visa and immigration proceedings
- be referred to by your specified name and pronouns
- use the restroom aligned with your gender identity



Stanford Graduate Workers Union - UE Local 1043

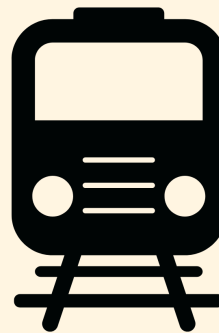


 Travel reimbursement, time off for visas, and more!

Know your rights under the contract:
sgwu.us/contract/


Living Off Campus?

**Apply for the Caltrain
GoPass!**



Stanford Graduate Workers Union - UE Local 1043



 Get your free Caltrain GoPass!

Apply here: sgwu.us/s/go!



Grievance Wins

SGWU stewards have helped reinstate graduate workers and get properly paid for their work. Have a workplace issue to report?

Email grievance@sgwu.us

1. A co-term had their TAsip canceled at 9:30 PM the night before spring quarter started. We helped them get reinstated after mediating communication with the department!
 2. A grad worker had their summer session TAsip cancelled due to lack of enrollment. We worked with them to ensure they were paid in full!
 3. Many graduate workers in the Graduate School of Education were being unfairly denied prorated tuition allowance. Our stewards met with their employment team to ensure grad workers are duly compensated for their assistantships!
 4. A grad worker was denied Emergency-Grant-In-Aid in a clear violation of the ADA. A union steward contacted their office, and the worker received their EGIA!
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Website Updates

We've made updates to our website, sgwu.us. Our home page has a BIG button to report workplace issues.

Experiencing a workplace issue?

If you, a coworker, or a friend have encountered a violation of the contract, have been denied the rights enshrined in our contract, or are denied funding, an SGWU steward can help.

Report an Issue

- Not sure if your issue counts? [Read about common violations and your rights at our contract landing page.](#)

We also have clearer information on how to calculate and pay your dues, including voluntary dues required for fellows to remain members in good standing.

Newsletters will also be available on our website.

Financial Resources

If you are facing financial hardship, our contract protects your right to get reimbursed for certain types of expenses via university resources.

- [Emergency Grant-in-Aid](#): financial assistance for unexpected expenses outside the [standard student budget](#). Eligible

expenses include reimbursement of actual expenses for chronic medical and mental health conditions and medically necessary expenses (e.g. dental and vision), bike repairs; computer repairs; legal expenses related to maintaining visa status

- [Graduate Student Aid Fund](#): health-related University fees such as the Campus Health Service Fee and Cardinal Care Insurance premiums when those expenses create a significant financial hardship (including to cover spouses through the dependent insurance plan)
- [Graduate Family Grant](#): flexible funds for healthcare, childcare and rent for graduate students with dependent children, making <\$150k household income annually

If you've been denied for any of the above funding sources, please send us an email at contact@sgwu.us



Standing Committee Updates



Membership Building

- Continued work on membership building and enforcement
- Made issue flyers + distributed them at socials
- Planning union orientations for the fall, a right we won in the contract



Data + Tech

- Updates on website
- Slack community guidelines as discussed previously
- Cataloging broadstripes categories (very useful!)
- Moved old notion docs to new home



Communications

- Created actionable resources against the new mail fee
- Collected member feedback + met with Stanford re: key issues, e.g. Cardinal Care and funding guarantee
- We have a newsletter!



Mark your calendar!

Upcoming events, training sessions, workshops, GMMs... you name
it

Event	Time	Location	Contact
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Membership Building Committee	Thursdays 6–7pm	Room 365, Green Earth Sciences or on Zoom	organizing@sgwu.us
Data + Tech Committee	Async	Async	recording@sgwu.us
Union Social	Wednesdays 5–6pm	Between EVGR B and C	organizing@sgwu.us
General Membership Meeting (GMM)	TBD	TBD	leb@sgwu.us
Steward Training	See sgwu.us/s/steward-training		steward@sgwu.us

About us

Stanford Graduate Workers Union (United Electrical Local 1043) represents graduate workers' interests as university employees and negotiates collectively over employment conditions like pay, benefits, health and safety, and protections against harassment and discrimination. We believe that graduate workers at Stanford power the research and teaching integral to the University's operations, reputation, and mission, and we deserve to have fair compensation and working conditions.

Local Executive Board

Our elected officers and Area Chief Stewards carry out decisions made by the membership in between General Membership Meetings, handle grievances, keep our union running, and respond to urgent situations. The local executive board is elected annually for a one-year term.

Standing Committees

Our three Standing Committees (Membership Building, Communications, Data and Technology) help run the day-to-day operations of our union. These Committees meet weekly and are open to all rank-and-file members.

Get in touch

We welcome questions, comments and feedback through our emails, website, or social media.

 sgwu.us	 contact@sgwu.us	 @stanfordgwu.ue	 @StanfordGWU	 sgwu-announce @lists.stanford.edu
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