




AUG 2025 AT A GLANCE

STANFORD GRADUATE WORKERS UNION • Aug 31, 2025

This month, SGWU met with Stanford on important issues such as the new Cardinal Care plan, the status of the funding guarantee, and more. We helped reinstate a graduate worker who was at-risk of being dismissed from their program due to an abusive advisor. Our leadership attended the UE National Convention. Finally, our members pushed forward the fight on the new graduate package system.

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-  79th UE National Convention
-  Fall quarter orientation
-  New Cardinal Care in effect
-  Affected by funding cuts? Please let us know!

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Announcements

79th UE National Convention

SGWU attended the 79th UE National Convention from August 24-28 in Chicago with the theme “One Voice, One Fight, One Future.” The Convention, held every two years, is the highest decision-making body in UE. It is composed of rank-and-file delegates elected by members of their local unions and sets UE Policy for the next two years.

At this Convention, delegates adopted nearly thirty [resolutions](#); including “[The Fight for Higher Education](#),” “[International Solidarity](#),” and “[A Just Economy for All](#).”

New national officers were also elected. Scott Slawson was sworn in as General President, Kim Lawson as Director of Organization, and Andrew Dinkelaker as Secretary-Treasurer. SGWU

membership voted to support Scott, Kim, and Andrew of the [Build Win Lead](#) slate at the July GMM.

● Fall quarter orientation

- Both new and returning graduate students are encouraged to attend our **union-wide orientation on Thursday, September 18 at 6-7pm in Hewlett 201**.
- More details, including department-specific orientations, can be found on our [website](#).
- Our recently elected UE National Officers will be featured!

● New Cardinal Care in effect

- As of 9/1/2025, the new Wellfleet Cardinal Care plan is in effect. There is a 6 month buffer period for transition of care. Stanford has directed students to call Vaden or submit a ServiceNow ticket with questions.
- SGWU is aware that there are a lot of issues with the new insurance. **We are pushing Stanford to meet with us and hold a town hall; please submit your questions [here](#).**
- GLO is holding an [information session](#) on Oct 2 via Zoom
- You can read our notes from our previous meeting with Stanford [here](#).

● Affected by funding cuts? Please let us know!

- In our meeting with Stanford, the university clarified that the **“good academic standing”** requirement for the five-year funding guarantee usually **means having an advisor committed to funding you**.
 - SGWU recognizes the challenge this poses for cases of harassment and abuse, as well as early graduate students still trying to match with advisors.
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- If you are facing funding issues, please reach out to a union steward or email contact@sgwu.us.
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General Membership Meeting Recap

This GMM, we discussed important member issues such as the upcoming Cardinal Care changes, the new graduate housing mail system, and orientation planning. Our trustees also provided an audit update. See our notes [here](#).



Official business

Our trustees report that our fiscal's financials are in good order for the audited period. Spending is currently under budget in most areas, save the social committee.

MORE DETAILS:

 [GMM Notes](#)

New stewards

If you're interested in becoming a union steward and helping to enforce our contract, please nominate yourself and/or a coworker!

MORE DETAILS:

 [Stewards Nomination Form](#)

 [Stewards Training RSVP](#)

Raise an issue

At GMM, we discussed change to Cardinal Care, the new graduate housing package system, and the funding guarantee.

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

MORE DETAILS:

 [Submit Issues Here](#)

Know Your Contract Benefits


Do you have your fall quarter appointment?

You should receive an appointment letter 14 days before your appointment begins. That's Sept 8 for appointments starting Monday, Sept 22

Your Duties

If you have questions about your appointment letters, reach out to your advisor, a steward in your area, or contact@sgwu.us



 **Make sure you have your fall quarter appointment!**


You should receive an appointment letter by September 8 with your fall quarter appointment details.

The new Cardinal Care plan is active.


Here's what we know:

1. For official info, see vaden.stanford.edu/student-health-matters-2526/
2. The Wellfleet app sucks, use the website or call to get your insurance ID
3. You'll probably need a new referral from Vaden to continue receiving specialist care
4. Regular visit copays are up from \$25 to \$35. ER visit copays are going up from \$100 to \$250
5. Basic dental coverage and an annual eye exam should be covered by the plan, but students are being directed to purchase vision insurance (?)

MORE QUESTIONS? FILL OUT OUR FORM:
[SGWU.US/S/CARDINAL-CARE](https://sgwu.us/s/cardinal-care)



Stanford Graduate Workers Union - UE Local 1043



 **Fill out our Cardinal Care questionnaire**

We know the new insurance plan has been difficult to navigate. Let's hold Stanford accountable and get our

questions answered:
sgwu.us/s/cardinal-care

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

- A graduate worker was at-risk of being dismissed from their PhD program after working under an abusive advisor. Stewards met with the worker and communicated with department admin and VPGE. The grad worker will be able to continue in their program!
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Member Spotlight



Our president speaking to Senator
Bernie Sanders (I-VT) at the 2025 UE
National Convention in Chicago!

Our members attend the South Bay
Labor Council barbecue and labor day
action in San Jose!

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](#): out-of-pocket medical, mental, vision and dental care costs; bike repairs; computer repairs; legal expenses related to maintaining visa status
- [Graduate Student Aid Fund](#): spousal Cardinal Care insurance premiums; campus health fee and/or Cardinal Care premiums for students with significant debt burdens or required expenses beyond customary cost of attendance
- [Graduate Family Grant](#): flexible funds to cover childcare, healthcare and rent for students with dependents

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	 Data + Tech	 Communications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued work on membership building and enforcementContinued to run the union socials and distribute issue flyersFinished union orientation slide deck and planned union orientations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Added new students to and removed graduated students from database and email listsEmailed new students to provide useful union resourcesDocumented and archived pre-contract union resources to our new Google workspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated the website with orientation informationBegan survey of emergency grant-in-aid usage and denial ratesMet with members on the new graduate package center and continued to take action on the mail fee



Mark your calendar!

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

Event	Time	Location	Contact
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Union Orientation	Sept 18 6–7pm	Hewlett 201	contact@sgwu.us
GOALIE	Sept 19 12–2pm	Canfield Court	contact@sgwu.us
Department Orientation	See sgwu.us/orientation		contact@sgwu.us
General Membership Meeting (GMM) + Town Hall	Sept 25 5pm	EVGR C 134 Theater	leb@sgwu.us
Union Social	Sept 18 7pm	Hewlett Patio	organizing@sgwu.us
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
Communications Committee	Async	Async	organizing@sgwu.us

About us

Stanford Graduate Workers Union (United Electric 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



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