



Arizona State University Raises Student Fees Despite Graduate Students Voting No, Union Responds with Fee Waiver Petition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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At 1:00 pm this afternoon, ASU students received an email stating that, “for nonresident students enrolled in a graduate degree program, ASU is proposing that base tuition increase by 5% (an approximate \$1,634 increase from academic year 2022–2023).” This is in addition to another announcement we received moments ago, at 2:00 pm, regarding an increase in our student fees.

On February 17th, 2023, the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA), which is the governing body that represents 29,000 graduate students at ASU voted “NO” to raising our “student-initiated fees” by \$50 per semester. Today, March 13th, ASU Council of Presidents (coerced by ASU administration) also [announced that they will be raising fees for all students](#), despite this “NO” vote.

At that same meeting, GPSA voted “YES” on a fee waiver for graduate student workers. Behind closed doors, the university has called this plan “inactionable” despite multiple universities already waiving fees for students across the country at state universities such as [UC Berkeley](#), [University of Chicago](#), [CU Boulder](#), and [University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign](#). If ASU is truly “#1 in Innovation” they should be finding innovative ways to meet, rather than dismiss, student needs and further burden workers already strained by economic, political, and social instability.

In response to the university’s disregard for graduate students, the United Campus Workers of Arizona (UCW AZ) and the University Union of Northern Arizona (UUNA), have come together to launch [a state-wide petition](#) to issue a student fee waiver for all students who work for the three public universities. As the union of all employees at ASU and UA, UCW AZ believes that

student workers have a right to participate in decisions made about themselves, and that the state universities have a responsibility to not only listen to our needs, but to act on them.

The current minimum wages for hourly student workers at UA is \$14.50; at ASU it is \$12.80; and at NAU it is \$15.00. The current base salaries for grad student Research Assistant or Teaching Assistants (RA/TAs) at ASU is \$21,879; at UA \$20,000; and at NAU \$18,000. These are substantially lower than the estimated living wages for the corresponding areas. With already low wages, student fees at ASU result in a 4-10% deduction of our wages and are even higher for international students, who are charged additional fees.

A guaranteed fee waiver for every student worker is the first step toward a better quality of life for students. Student workers—whose teaching, research, administrative, and staff labor are vital for our three public universities—are demanding that ASU, UA, and NAU waive all fees for all student workers and take actionable steps towards economic relief for workers already burdened by ongoing inflation. Higher Education Workers Unite! Waive our student fees!

About United Campus Workers of Arizona (UCWAZ)

UCWAZ unites Arizona's diverse public university workforce—including part-time and full-time staff, faculty, students, and student workers—to address the critical issues we all face. Our mission is to champion and defend the interests and well-being of all university workers, as well as to build and sustain social and economic justice in our workplaces and communities.

