

GA/PGA tax issue timeline

November 2010:

UIC GEO informs UIUC GEO that hundreds of GAs have been subject to massive tax withholdings. Some employees' paychecks were completely wiped out. UIS GEO reports the same problem.

GEO leadership asks university administrators about the GA tax issue at our monthly labor-management meeting. Management says that the taxes were withheld due to a computer error on the other campuses. They tell us that the money will be fully restored to affected employees. Administrators assure us that GAs on the UIUC campus will not be impacted.

February 2011:

An e-mail notice goes out to all graduate employees whose total appointments are 51%+ GA or PGA informing them that they will be subject to tuition waiver tax withholding beginning in March.

GEO leadership brings up this issue with management at our February labor-management meeting. Management assures GEO that they understand the severity of the problem and are interested in mitigating the impact. GEO begins to provide management with strategies for mitigation.

March 2011

GEO leadership meets with management again in a second, emergency meeting. Labor and management agree to meet at least weekly until the crisis is resolved. Management informs GEO that they are working hard to mitigate the impact of the tax burden.

GEO members start a tax-focused listserv.

GEO members submit questions to the administration about the rationale and logistics of the tax situation.

GAs and PGAs begin organizing in their departments around the tax issue.