

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BARGAINING RIGHTS
FOR UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS GRADUATE EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, the more than 5,000 graduate employees at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are indispensable members of the University as they teach nearly half of all introductory level courses, run laboratories and libraries, perform essential research that has established and maintained the University's excellent reputation, and perform many other services vital to the University and our community; and

WHEREAS, graduate employees at the University have demonstrated overwhelming support for union representation, with 3,226 graduate employees signing petitions in 1996 requesting the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board to conduct a union election and 64% of those voting in a representation election conducted in 1997 by local religious leaders voting for the Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO) as their bargaining representative; and

WHEREAS, the University administration refuses to recognize the results of this election, refuses to voluntarily recognize the GEO, and has spent hundreds of thousands of public tax dollars fighting a legally binding election to allow graduate employees to decide whether they want union representation; and

WHEREAS, the GEO has exhausted all legal and diplomatic channels to improve their working conditions and secure union recognition, and, as a result, GEO members have voted to conduct a strike that will have a negative impact on many Urbana residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

That we urge the University of Illinois Board of Trustees to avert a strike or similar disruptive actions by respecting the right of graduate employees to organize and bargain collectively; and

That we call upon the Board of Trustees to meet immediately with the Graduate Employees' Organization and reach agreement on the terms of collective bargaining, including, but not limited to, the parameters of a collective bargaining unit and the scope of issues to be dealt with; and

That we urge the University administration and the Board of Trustees, and the Graduate Employees' Organization to bargain in good faith and in the best interests of graduate employees and the University as a whole.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____,
_____.

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____,
_____.

Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor