Working Class Studies Association
May 5, 2022

Statement of Solidarity with Striking Graduate Workers at Indiana University

Graduate workers at Indiana University-Bloomington, in a transparent, democratic process, voted in strong majority to be represented in their dealings with the University by the United Electrical Workers (UE). The newly formed union, the Indiana Graduate Worker Coaltion-United Electrical Workers (IGWC-UE) petitioned the IU administration for recognition of their collective bargaining unit under University Policy HR12-20. When their petition was denied, and the IU administration refused further dialogue with the democratically chosen leaders of the IGWC-UE, the union opted to begin a work stoppage to demand their rights on April 13, 2022. As of May 3, 2022, the University Provost and upper administration not only continue to deny these workers their collective rights, but also refuse to even engage in constructive dialogue.

Therefore, the members of the Working Class Studies Association loudly declare their full and complete solidarity with our striking colleagues and comrades in the IGWC-UE. We demand that the Indiana University President, Board of Trustees, and Provost office, recognize the democratic rights of the graduate workers, recognize their union, and commence negotiations towards a collective bargaining agreement. We fully and completely endorse their right to organize, to be recognized as workers, their right to choose their own form of representation, and their right to withhold labor without fear of retaliation.

The right to organize, bargain, and choose their own form of representation is a human right belonging to all workers that transcends institutions and laws. It is the most basic of human rights, and we call upon Indiana University, as an institution of higher learning, to recognize this fact and recognize the union.

In solidarity,
Dr. Joseph Varga
President, Working Class Studies Association (WCSA)
WCSA Executive Committee
Membership of the Working Class Studies Association