TO: Western University Students  
FROM: Janice Deakin, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)  
RE: UPDATE on labour negotiations involving Graduate Teaching Assistants  

March 23, 2018  

Dear students,  

We would like to update you on the status of our contract talks with Graduate Teaching Assistants who are members of Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 610. The union has voted in favour of a strike. While that doesn’t necessarily mean a strike will take place, the strike vote has led us to take steps to ensure both continuity and completion of the school term.  

Today, we have asked that the conciliator who has been working with University and PSAC negotiators file a “no board report” with the provincial Labour Minister. A “no board report” signals that conciliated talks have so far failed to produce a settlement. It also means neither side may initiate a labour disruption until at least 17 days after that report is provincially approved.  

This timeline provides some predictability for students as they approach the end of term and prepare for exams. We remain committed to ensuring exams take place as scheduled. We encourage you to complete your assignments, lab reports, essays and other coursework as you ordinarily would, and to work towards assigned deadlines as usual.  

We value the contributions GTAs make to the quality of undergraduate education at Western. We remain hopeful that an agreement can be reached at our next negotiation session on March 27 and are committed to achieving a contract that is reasonable and responsible.  

Please continue watching the University’s Contract Negotiations website for the latest information.  

Thank you,  

Janice Deakin, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)