



TUGSA

Temple University Graduate Students' Association
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, Local 6290

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TEMPLE STUDENT EMPLOYEES RALLY FOR QUALITY HEALTHCARE

Child Care Also an Issue as the Student Union Negotiates a New Contract

PHILADELPHIA – “We’d Love Quality Healthcare” was the name given to today’s demonstration on the campus of Temple University. Members of the Temple University Graduate Students’ Association (TUGSA) marched today with supporters from the Temple Association of University Professionals (TAUP), the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP), and Jobs With Justice. The march and rally were organized by TUGSA to demonstrate TUGSA’s commitment to its contract proposals to the university’s administration. TUGSA is the graduate student-employee union at Temple, and has been negotiating a new contract with the university administration since September. The current contract expires on February 15.

TUGSA is asking the administration for:

- a subsidy for dependent, domestic partner, and spousal health insurance
- more dental coverage
- year-round health coverage
- family leave
- a subsidy for child care

In addition, TUGSA wants to start a dialogue about reopening the campus day care center, which was shut down in 1995.

TUGSA has a track record of success in its efforts to improve the health insurance options for Temple employees. The union recently won a grievance against university administration, which had refused to provide health insurance coverage for its graduate student employees over the summer; those students will now receive a rebate. In 2002, TUGSA became the first union at Temple to win for its members the option of adding domestic partners to health insurance coverage (albeit unsubsidized); today, Temple offers such a benefit to all employees, union and non-union.

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