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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | MEDIA ADVISORY - May 5, 2021

## **MAY 6TH, 2021: CSU GRAD WORKERS MARCH TO DEMAND LIVING WAGES AND AN END TO PROHIBITIVE FEES**

This Thursday, May 6th, the CSU Board of Governors and President Joyce McConnell are meeting to discuss budget priorities for the upcoming year. The Graduate Workers Organizing Cooperative (GWOC) is holding a rally/march during the meeting to demand that the needs of graduate workers be prioritized during budgeting. Per the Graduate School's own research, graduate workers at CSU pay higher fees than at any other peer university, and also receive a lower than average minimum monthly stipend.

Grad worker testimonials (gathered via #CSUFeeStories):

- "This destroyed my financial plan"
- "These fees are debilitating and really feel crippling"
- "I'm now on food stamps and have had to borrow money from my mom, who was laid off during the pandemic"
- "I've managed to survive by depleting my savings account and utilizing '0% interest for 12mos' offers on new credit cards."
- "I ignored a medical problem for months because it felt expensive and student fees had drained my savings"

Graduate student workers provide essential labor for the core functioning of the university. Both as teaching and research assistants, we serve as important members of the CSU community, and our work makes the university a competitive R1 research institution. We demand livable wages and the elimination of our heavy fee burden. This pay to work system must end!

**Who:** GWOC members and supporters

**What:** Rally/march during the CSU Board of Governors meeting

**When:** Thursday, May 6th, 3-4:30pm

**Where:** Rally start/end at CSU Administration Building (900 Oval Drive, Fort Collins), with march stops at Laurel & Howes, Laurel & College, and College & University.

The Graduate Workers Organizing Cooperative (GWOC) is an independent, worker-run organization advocating for all graduate workers at Colorado State University. To learn more, visit us at [csugradworkers.org](http://csugradworkers.org), or on social media at [@CSUGradWorkers](https://twitter.com/CSUGradWorkers).

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