

**AUTHORIZATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN GEO/UAW LOCAL 1596
AND FOR PAYROLL DEDUCTION OF DUES AND FEES**

GEO/UAW Local 1596 is the graduate employee union at the University of Massachusetts, Boston and the exclusive bargaining agent for all graduate employees (**TAs, RAs, GAs, and Teaching Fellows**). **All UMass Boston graduate employees are represented by GEO and covered by the terms of our contract with UMass.**

Your signature below gives you the right to a say in GEO and UAW Local 1596 governance, vote on/run for union office, participate in collective bargaining and vote on our contracts with UMass. Your signature below also authorizes the deduction of a one-time \$25 initiation fee and deduction of 1.79% membership dues from your bi-weekly paychecks for this and all future graduate employee appointments.

Yes! I want to be a member of GEO/UAW Local 1596. I hereby authorize by my actual or electronic signature below, GEO/UAW Local 1596 union membership dues and initiation fees in an amount certified to the University by the Financial Secretary of the Union to be deducted from my pay and remitted to the Financial Secretary of the Union. These deductions may be terminated at any time by my giving written notice in advance. This authorization shall be in effect for all future UMass Boston graduate assistantship appointments unless revoked by me in writing.

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Employee or Student ID Number

Signature (required)

Date

Academic Dpt.

Work Dpt.

Local Street Address/Apt. #

City State Zip

Phone Yes, I accept texts

Preferred email to receive information

Please return to:
GEO/UAW Local 1596 c/o
Secretary/Treasurer
Q-2-081 Quinn Administration Building,
UMass Boston 02125
(617) 287 3109
geoumassboston@gmail.com
<http://geoumb.org/>

OUR STRENGTH IS IN OUR NUMBERS

FERPA Waiver

Background

To have a properly functioning union, GEO needs to know what employees are in our bargaining unit and covered by our union contract at all times. It is standard practice for employers to provide unions access to their bargaining unit lists. Due to an old law (FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974) that is being strictly enforced of late by the federal government, student records are private—with the exception of certain basic “directory” information (name, address, phone, etc.) The problem is that employment status is not considered directory information. As such, the University of Massachusetts Boston administration currently argues that, by giving us any list of the employees in our unit—who are graduate students and subject to FERPA—they would automatically be giving us private information (i.e. employment status) proscribed under FERPA. Therefore, they maintain that they cannot give us any unit information at all, and say that the only way we can contact our full unit is through communications sent out via the UMB administration. GEO is currently contesting this interpretation of FERPA—as are other graduate employee unions nationwide. However; if you sign the waiver below, the administration will provide GEO with your information for our member database. **It is also your right to choose not to sign the waiver.** However, the more waivers that are signed, the more effective our administrative apparatus. The waivers allow us to know how many members we have and organize more effectively, which helps us negotiate higher wages and better benefits in future contracts. Signing the waiver helps all graduate workers on campus.

We strongly encourage all graduate assistants to sign the waiver.

**YOUR SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED BELOW IF YOU ARGREE TO RELEASE
YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION AND NON-DIRECTORY INFORMATION AS DEFINED ABOVE.**

WAIVER:

I, _____, the undersigned graduate student at University of
Print Name Clearly

Massachusetts Boston hereby authorize the University of Massachusetts Boston to release all of my directory information (including, but not limited to, my name, academic department, entrance date, e-mail address, home address, phone number, work department, and office address) and all of my relevant non-directory information (including, but not limited to, my student ID number, employment status, employment category, job title, number of hours contracted for, stipend/salary, length of contract, and notice of any discharge or disciplinary action) to the Graduate Employee Union/United Auto Workers Local 1596 – University of Massachusetts Boston Chapter (GEO). This information shall be provided upon request following receipt of this waiver, in both digital and hardcopy format, to official representative of GEO for the duration of my GEO membership.

SIGNATURE

DATE (mm/dd/yy)

Check this box if you are intentionally leaving this page blank.