Fellow Wolverines,

As many of you may know, the Lecturers’ Employee Organization (LEO) is currently working to change their contracts with the University. LEO is the labor union that represents all 1,700 non-tenure track faculty on all three campuses of UM, and now, more than ever, they need student allies to support them in their bargaining efforts for fair working conditions.

In the 2016-2017 school year alone, lecturers generated $462 million in tuition, yet the total cost of salaries and benefits for all UM lecturers was only $85 million. The $377 million surplus, which went to our $10.9 billion endowment, demonstrates that the University does indeed have sufficient funding to pay lecturers a livable wage. Our tuition has increased 90% over the past 14 years, yet lecturers have had a mere 11% salary increase during this time. Lecturers teach 33%, 51% and 56% of all credit hours at UM Flint, Dearborn, and Ann Arbor, respectively- we need them to keep our University running.

When our lecturers are forced to work multiple jobs, face food insecurity, and struggle to make ends meet in Ann Arbor, we as students feel the repercussions through the quality of teaching in our classrooms. Lecturers’ working conditions are our learning conditions.

As students on this campus who have benefited tremendously from the tireless work of our lecturers, we stand with LEO and urge you to stand with them in their fight too.

Please go to the LEO Facebook event page to learn more about their Weekend of Action, and attend their upcoming events if you are able to.

Yours in solidarity,

Anushka Sarkar        Daniel Greene
CSG President        CSG President Elect
Nadine Jawad         Izzy Baer
CSG Vice President   CSG Vice President Elect