To: Graduate Students  
From: Linda Miller, Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)  
Re: Graduate student responsibilities in the event of a labour disruption

April 6, 2018

Dear Graduate Student:

On April 11 and 12, Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs), who are members of PSAC Local 610, will be voting on whether to accept Western’s last contract offer. The union will be in a legal strike position effective 12:01 a.m. on April 13.

We are aware that many of you have questions regarding how a potential labour disruption might impact your studies, including your academic and research commitments. This may be especially true for those of you who are also Graduate Teaching Assistants.

For those of you who are Graduate Teaching Assistants, your responsibilities as GTAs are separate from your responsibilities as researchers and graduate students. You are expected to fulfil your obligations to research work and to continue to meet your academic requirements. If you need clarification about your research duties, please speak with your Graduate Program Chair.

For those of you who are not GTAs, the expectations are that you will continue to carry out all of your research and program-related activities.

Should there be a strike, Graduate Teaching Assistants are legally permitted to: picket at entrances to the university gates; carry signs stating the nature of their dispute; speak about their concerns to people entering the property; and ask people entering the property to join the picket line.

The union is not legally permitted to blockade university entrances; use force, threats or threatening gestures; construct barriers to block access to the university; engage in unlawful behaviour; or picket on university property.

Anyone passing through picket lines should be courteous; avoid arguments and confrontations; if challenged, politely express your intention to exercise your legal right to enter campus; and contact Campus Community Police Services should any safety concerns arise.

Please allow extra time to get to any appointments or meetings on campus.

Western remains committed to reaching a reasonable, fiscally responsible and mutually agreeable settlement. The university is also committed to ensuring that students can continue to meet their academic requirements. Please continue to check
www.uwo.ca/contractnegotiations for further information and updates, or contact the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at extension 82102 if you have additional questions.

Thank you.

Linda Miller
Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)