March 2, 2018

**Statement in Support of the Striking Graduate Employees at UIUC**

The Collective Bargaining Congress of the AAUP stands in solidarity with the striking members of the Graduate Employees Organization at the University of Illinois, AFT Local 6300.

As of March 2, they have been working without a contract for 200 days, and are holding strong against draconian employer proposals that would, among other take-backs, seriously reduce the availability of tuition waivers that make graduate education possible. We support the GEO in their fight for affordable, accessible graduate education and a living wage for academic workers. We are inspired by their collective action. And we call on the administration to return to the table and bargain fairly.