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**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2022 4:56 PM  
**To:** dl-faculty <dl-faculty@wpi.edu>

**Subject:** Guidelines for communications regarding union organizing activities

**Attachments:** [Dos and Donts for Faculty](#)

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with some guidance on communicating with students about the union organizing activity underway at WPI.

On September 20, 2022, we were formally notified by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that the United Auto Workers (UAW) had filed a petition seeking to hold an election where graduate student workers would decide whether they want to be represented by the UAW. Just as graduate students look to you for guidance on academics, research, and careers, they may also look to you for guidance about whether to vote for or against a union.

Now that a petition has been filed, **WPI has certain legal obligations** which prohibit the university, and its supervisory employees, including faculty overseeing graduate student workers, from engaging in activities that might constitute unfair labor practices and which could result in the outcome of an election being challenged or invalidated.

Attached to this email is a **summary of basic “Do’s and Don’ts”** for faculty who supervise graduate student workers at WPI. **Please review this summary carefully** and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,

Art

Arthur C. Heinricher  
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