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Joseph Neubauer, Chairman
University of Chicago Board of Trustees
5801 South Ellis Avenue
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Dear Sirs:

Graduate Students United (AFT-IFT / AAUP), the graduate employee union at the University of Chicago, hereby express our support of and solidarity with the Faculty Forward Campaign (SEIU) of non-tenure track faculty at the University of Chicago in their drive to unionize. We urge the administration to remain neutral and not seek to interfere with the organizing efforts and collective bargaining rights of these employees. Along with the AAUP Advocacy Chapter, we urge the University not to employ union avoidance consultants, or to allow participation in or support for the union to play any role in personnel decisions.

It is our conviction that the future of higher education in America depends upon the strength of faculty, which includes job security and fair wages and benefits, and commitment to academic freedom and shared governance. The erosion of tenure, along with the increasingly precarious position of contingent faculty due to low wages and poor benefits, represent threats to the strength of faculty and to academic freedom. It is incumbent upon all of us who teach at the University of Chicago—graduate students, non-tenure track faculty, and tenured faculty—to assert our collective power in order to reverse these trends in higher education.

Sincerely,
The Organizing Committee
Graduate Students United