



PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

**American Association of
University Professors**

Promoting Quality Higher Education – An Investment in Oregon's Future

December 5, 2019

Stephen Percy
Interim President
Portland State University

Dear President Percy:

Research support at Portland State University is in crisis.

Staffing in the office of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) has declined significantly, threatening grants support for principal investigators (PIs) and researchers in general at PSU.

- Workloads associated with grants management are becoming untenable for PIs and many are questioning whether PSU is a place where a research career is possible and are considering alternatives.
- Workloads have become untenable for the department research administrators (DRAs) and grant analysts who support PIs. Many have left in the past year, and there has been no staff replacement. The crisis in RGS is making retention of these academic professionals very difficult.

PSU-AAUP has been trying to get the administration to address the problems in RGS [for nearly a year](#), and have brought the matter to the bargaining table. Faculty in the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science have also recently written you a letter calling for your urgent action.

The Executive Council of PSU-AAUP, on behalf of nearly 1200 faculty, researchers, and academic professionals, ask to see a sustainable plan to re-staff RGS and resolve the crisis of research support at PSU. We look forward to seeing this plan circulated and vetted by faculty and research support staff.

Sincerely,

[The PSU-AAUP Executive Council](#)