

Scroll to the second page of this document for Template #2, which you can use to write to the University Regents, President, and Provost yourself about withholding your donation.

TEMPLATE #1: UM DONORS, ACT NOW!

Subject Line: A Better Blue: #RespecttheLecls for a Stronger University of Michigan

Dear [Title, Name],

I write to you as a fellow Wolverine and supporter of the University of Michigan to inform you about a serious issue at the University. I have recently learned [some disturbing news](#) about the working conditions of our University's non-tenure track faculty, or Lecturers.

Lecturers generally do not differentiate themselves to their students, but you likely had many classes with Lecturers during your time at Michigan. They are responsible for a substantial portion of the undergraduate education at UM. In 2016-2017, **[33% of student credit hours on Ann Arbor campus, 51% in Dearborn, and 56% in Flint](#)** were taught by Lecturers. These qualified and dedicated scholars generated \$462 million in tuition revenue for the academic year.

The invaluable contribution that Lecturers make to the educational mission of UM is not reflected in the way they are compensated or treated. The current minimum salary for full-time Lecturers in Ann Arbor is only \$34,500, and it is even worse in Dearborn and Flint: \$28,300 and \$27,300 respectively, for teaching eight classes a year. Lecturers who have dedicated over a decade of service to the University, and who hold multiple advanced degrees, can earn less than the minimum salary at our local community colleges.

While not all Lecturers face these unstable and disheartening working conditions, the full-time rate for far too many Lecturers falls below the [United Way's Basic Needs budget](#) minimum for a family of four (two adults, one infant, one preschooler).

In Washtenaw County, where the Ann Arbor campus is located, that minimum is \$63,096; the full-time rate (FTR) for **over 60% of Lecturers falls below this figure**. In Wayne County, where the Dearborn campus is located, the United Way minimum is \$62,148; **92% of Lecturers fall below that**. In Genesee County, where the Flint campus is located, the United Way minimum is \$51,288; **at least 73% of Lecturers fall below that threshold**.

Consequently, in March one of our own University Regents, Mark Bernstein, [said that "our lecturers are being exploited."](#)

Like you, I am a proud [donor/alum/faculty member/supporter/etc.] of UM. [I am also the parent/spouse/friend/etc. of a devoted University of Michigan Lecturer.] I believe that **for us to be Leaders and Best, we must set an example for how we treat our own**. We should live up to our values of supporting all students and setting an exemplary standard of quality education in this great state and around the world.

Since October 27, 2017, [Lecturers have been bargaining](#) with university administration for livable working conditions. On June 21, the University Board of Regents will vote to approve a budget for the upcoming academic year. **I urge you to write today to members of the Board of Regents** to let them know that if Lecturers are not guaranteed a fair contract by June 21, they should approach their budgeting decisions with the understanding that **you will withhold any donations to the University, including on Giving Blue Day, until this is resolved.**

It is an embarrassment for any faculty at this renowned institution to rely on [food stamps and other public assistance](#), or work 2-4 jobs, to support their families. The working conditions of our high-caliber faculty are the learning conditions of current University of Michigan students. We owe it to future generations to use our power and Build a Better Blue.

For your convenience I have provided an easy template that you can use (directly or as inspiration) to email President Mark Schlissel, Provost Martin Philbert, and all eight members of the University Board of Regents. **Please do this today** if you believe that we are the Leaders and Best and that the education that we received from University of Michigan is worth more.

Sincerely,
[Name Here]

TEMPLATE #2: WITHHOLDING MY DONATIONS

Subject: From a UM Donor: Respect the Leecs!

Dear [Regent/President/Provost](#) [Insert Name Here],

My name is [Insert Name Here], and I am a proud University of Michigan alum and donor. [You may include specific details about your history of donations or other contributions to UM here].

I write you to let you know that I am in full support of the University of Michigan's non-tenure track faculty in their negotiations for a new, fair contract. Lecturers make an invaluable contribution to the educational mission of our beloved University. They should be granted the respect of livable salaries and job security.

I know that the University Regents will soon vote on the budget for next academic year. I want to let you know that if next year's budget does not allocate adequate resources to the equitable compensation of Lecturers, I will be withholding any future donations to the University until this is corrected. I will not participate in Giving Blue Day or any other donation drives until I can be confident that we are treating our educators like the Leaders and Best that they are.

I urge you to approve a budget that guarantees equity and respect for Lecturers on all three campuses of the University of Michigan. Thank you for your time and attention. Go Blue!

Sincerely,
[Your Name Here]

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Facebook.com/LEOLecturersEmployeeOrganization
Leounion.wordpress.com
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ADDRESS TO:

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