

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

In the matter of the petition of:

UNITED AUTO WORKERS LOCAL 4591

For clarification of an existing bargaining unit  
of employees of:

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

CASE 141973-C-25

DECISION 14084 - PECB

ORDER AMENDING CERTIFICATION

*Amy Bowles*, Attorney at Law, Douglas Drachler McKee & Gilbrough LLP, for the  
United Auto Workers Local 4591.

*Kendra Hsieh*, Labor Relations Officer, for the Washington State University.

The United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America Local 4121 (United Auto Workers Local 4121) (union) is the exclusive bargaining representative of a bargaining unit of academic employees as defined in RCW 41.56.205 at the Washington State University (employer). *Washington State University*, Decision 13591-A (PECB, 2024).<sup>1</sup> On January 24, 2025, the union filed a unit clarification petition under WAC 391-35-085 asking that the Commission amend an existing bargaining unit certification to reflect that the certified bargaining representative organization recently changed its name to WSU Case/United Auto Workers Local 4591. The employer does not oppose the change. The request for amendment is granted.

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<sup>1</sup> The bargaining unit is described as, “All employees enrolled in academic programs and employed by Washington State University in the following classifications: Graduate Teaching Assistant; Graduate Staff Assistant; Graduate Project Assistant; Graduate Veterinary Assistant; Graduate Research Assistant, and any other student employees whose duties and responsibilities are substantially equivalent to those employees in the described positions; excluding students who have incidental or no service expectancy imposed upon them by the employer, casual employees, confidential employees, supervisors, employees covered under chapter 41.76 RCW, employees included in any other bargaining unit, and all other employees.”

The Commission's rules provide a process for an organization to petition for an amendment to an existing certification under WAC 391-35-085, which states:

A party may file a petition to amend an existing certification, and the executive director may amend the certification, provided that the purpose of the amendment is to reflect changed circumstances such as the name of the labor organization or the name of an employer, and the bargaining unit is not affected by the change and there is no question concerning representation.

Here, the union's petition merely seeks to amend the existing certification to reflect that the certified bargaining representative has changed its name. The bargaining unit's structure has not been altered, and no question concerning representation exists.

ORDER

1. The certification issued in *Washington State University*, Decision 13591-A (PECB, 2024) is amended to reflect that the certified bargaining representative has changed its name to WSU Case/United Auto Workers Local 4591.
2. The amendment to the certification issued in this proceeding does not give rise to a new "certification bar" year under RCW 41.56.070 or WAC 391-25-030(2).

ISSUED at Olympia, Washington, this 1st day of April, 2025.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION



MICHAEL P. SELLARS, Executive Director

This order will be the final order of the agency unless a notice of appeal is filed with the Commission under WAC 391-35-210.



## RECORD OF SERVICE

ISSUED ON 4/01/2025

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DECISION 14084 - PECB has been served electronically by the Public Employment Relations Commission to the parties and their representatives listed below. If no email address was provided, a paper copy was sent to the mailing address.

BY: DEBBIE BATES

CASE 141973-C-25

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