



M.E.R.C. Rules Union, U-M Only Parties In Grad Student Case

The Mackinac Center Legal Foundation said Tuesday it will likely appeal a decision by the Employment Relations Commission earlier in the day to deny it standing in a case regarding unionization of graduate research assistants at the University of Michigan.

The MERC ruled that only the union and the university will be involved in the case when it moves to an administrative law judge.

The Mackinac Center is representing some 370 graduate students who would be members of the union if MERC approves its creation. The center was denied its motion to intervene on behalf of the students.

Attorney General Bill Schuette was also denied his motion to intervene. Mr. Schuette had argued that unionizing the research assistants “has the potential to significantly damage the University of Michigan’s reputation as a nationally recognized research institution” and that the case was, therefore, “a matter of public interest.”

The group urged the Legislature and governor to enter the fray was well, pointing to an Ohio law that prohibits graduate assistants from unionizing.