

Letter to the Editor: Miami wages just fine at present level

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The "living wage" system that Emily Brown advocates is not only unjust, it is also impractical. People deserve to be paid only what they can agree with someone else their services are worth. In Miami's case, this happens to be a starting wage of \$8.50.

To artificially inflate it to a "living wage" (which, by the way, does not take into account the generous benefits that Miami staff receive) would be unjust for the university, which had already agreed with the worker (otherwise the worker would not have taken it) on what a fair wage would be.

On a more practical consideration, it is essential that our economy have both a carrot and a stick. People enter intellectually challenging professions like medicine, engineering and finance partly because they know they will be rewarded with the "carrot" of high pay for doing so.

Many others enter these and countless other fields because they do not want to feel the "stick" of low wages. This is a good system, as we want to encourage people to enter fields where they can make a unique, valuable contribution, especially considering a future with Chinese and Indian competition. Do we really want to encourage more people to be custodians or bus drivers when we have no problem filling these positions already?

Finally, the people really "make everything happen," at least everything important, are the professors who teach at this university, not the staff as Ms. Brown alleges. If anyone should get a sizable pay increase, it is them.

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