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Vigil planned for janitors at Nova Southeastern

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A group of religious leaders from South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice will hold a vigil this afternoon before the opening of the new \$83 million University Center to call attention to the low wages paid janitors who work at Nova Southeastern University.

"If Nova can spend \$83 million on a new stadium, why won't they spend \$1.1 million for health insurance and higher wages?" the group asks in a statement released to the media.

Janitors at Nova Southeastern University have started formal contract negotiations with their employer, Boston-based Unicco Services, which provides janitorial services for NSU.

Janitors at NSU, the group say, earn less and have fewer benefits than their co-workers at other South Florida universities, including the University of Miami and Florida International University. Janitors at NSU earn a little over \$7 per hour.

The group says that paying health insurance and higher wages would only cost NSU \$1.1 million a year.

NSU officials could not be reached for comment early Saturday. But they have previously indicated they plan to rebid the contract and may hire another contractor or bring workers in-house.

Today's vigil begins at 3:30 p.m. at NSU's University Center.

South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice is an association of diverse religious leaders from Miami-Dade and Broward counties who advocate for the working poor. Founded in 1998, it is part of the national network of Chicago-based Interfaith Worker Justice.