

June AoS / Member Meeting Agenda

Tuesday June 21st, 4:30p at Judson Memorial Church Assembly Hall, 239 Thompson Street

Facilitating: Claudia

Notetaking: Sean

Stack & Timekeeping: Seana

Present: Hazem, Patrick (first half), Sean, Seana, Claudia, Nate, Jacob, Shelly, Colette, Abhinav, Nathan, Nick, Anne, Sarah, Tim, Vinay, Yoav, Chris, Ziad, Jess

Executive Summary:

The Int'l Exec Board sent a letter repeating that our BDS referendum vote, as a minority position, contradicts the position of a past UAW president, something we knew before the vote was taken, and consider violates the free speech rights of union members. Summer working groups on Steinhardt fees, parental leave, and the health insurance cost increase are continuing their work over the summer, and working splendidly but still need some help on some of them. Healthcare issues are a huge problem and will probably require more than just grievances to fix – look out for a meeting in July. We are gearing up to hit the ground running in the fall, with departmental organizing meetings to recruit new activists, though still trying to get NYU to help distribute cards (to get involved see organizing committee). Hazem and Nate were confirmed by the AoS as interim stewards. Jess, Abhinav, and Hazem were all elected unanimously as Unit Reps for the fall. Claudia and Nathan were unanimously confirmed as our voting delegates to the Coalition of Graduate Employee Unions conference this summer.

Introductions & Announcements (10m)

Overview & Approval of May Minutes (5m)

Committee Reports & Recruitment (25m)

- Organizing
- Comms
- Bylaws
- Political Solidarity
- Active Working Groups

JC Report-Back (5m)

Unit Rep Report (15m total)

- Grievances & arbitrations (5m)
 - Health care issues
 - Tandon job losses
- Summer organizing agenda (5m)
- Unit issues (dedicated segments below, 5m overview here)
 - Open seats
 - Appeal of BDS referendum

Internal Governance (10m)

- AoS voting
- Unit chair
- Internal appeal process

Steward Vacancies (5m)

Fall Unit Rep Election (15m)

CGEU Delegate Election (10m)

Resolutions (10m)

Committee & Working Group Check-ins (10m)

Happy Hour (6:30p onward!)

Minutes:

Intros/Announcements:

- Upcoming steward training, date TBD
- Orientation on healthcare at general meeting next month
- GSOC social event: viewing party for the Copa America finals on Sunday, see Ben's facebook event

Committee reports:

Comms report: Email Tiffany Yee (?) with issues

- Chris: it appears some names have been deleted from our longstanding list, and our lists are in a bit of a mess, but as of right now we don't have a functioning list to reach the membership. Hopefully it will be operational in the next week or so.
 - PoliSoli: we did Verizon picketing, they won. Proposal to have official GSOC participation in the Pride at Work contingent at NYC Pride on 6/26. **Passes unanimously.**
 - Bylaws: Chris: need new recruits for upcoming bylaws overview/revision process, one thing bylaws will be discussing an appeal process at the unit level. Also need better language on the Unit Chair position to be activated.
 - Summer working groups: 3 of 4 working groups have met (not the Tax issues one yet, need someone to bottom-line that).
 - Fee issue has largely been a Steinhardt effort, will have a July meeting on next steps, possible fee strike within the school.
 - Parental leave: we are devising a working doc to help students navigate the bureaucracy, and also doing research on possible alternatives to propose in an upcoming public campaign
 - Health insurance: the health insurance cost increase went through, tragically. We are still waiting on some information requested by Patrick, though Gail said she did not receive it and asked for an extension (she is probably lying). We are still in an information gathering phase, but hopefully will be in a position to soon move toward actions.
 - The working groups are doing great, strongly endorse this form of organizing for the future.
- JC reportback: Claudia: At April JC meeting, the Maida proposed to nullify the results of our elections, forced through a set of suggestions on the revision of the GSOC bylaws, and affirm their acclaimed stewards. Claudia presented an alternative proposal for compromise while we worked out the discrepancies, but this was rejected. Claudia: there was not an opportunity to present evidence, so due process was violated according to LMRDA
Jacob: I would object to the characterization that due process was violated.
Patrick: representing the Executive Board, we perceived the meeting as being conducted entirely in accordance with the constitution. Also I object to Claudia's characterizations that the JC "forced through a set of suggestions on the revision of the GSOC bylaws",

Patrick confirms Claudia's rephrasing that the JC was reiterating its *suggestions* for revision and that they remain suggestions.

Unit Rep report:

Grievances: healthcare is such a big problem that it seems our current grievances will be unlikely to resolve it in a manner that is effective or timely, so we are going to have a meeting soon on this and encourage ppl to spread the word on it, get feedback on what people want and need, and show how to get involved. That general meeting will probably be in the third week of July.

Employee meal plan - need people to come forward who have been affected by it. This is going to arbitration.

Registration and services fee - we're moving forward with this, our strategy might depend on outcome of the other arbitration. Past step three, going to arbitration.

Success story: we had another cancelled class settlement!! (*thunderous, tumultuous, and prolonged applause*)

Colette: have questions about whether for the Steinhardt fee, having something in arbitration is the best means of organizing for this given all the plans we have around it.

Claudia: right now this essentially just means gathering witnesses.

Colette: ok.

Nate: ...

We want to reinvigorate the committee and working group structure.

Card collection is also an issue. We have been talking to NYU about how to make distribution and collection a more streamlined process so we get more cards quicker.

Sarah: onboarding ppl seems to be one of our major challenging just because there is so much at the beginning. Perhaps we could get cards in initiation folders through departments, if not NYU-wide.

Nathan: last year the organizing comm coordinated a series of meetings across departments, so I think it's appropriate to do this through the organizing committee. Departmental meetings are much more successful than tabling at events, and you have more substantive conversations in departments.

Anne: organizing committee should take this up further, not the AoS

(general agreement)

Unit issues:

Claudia: open seats: unit reps for the fall, CGEU delegates for this summer, steward vacancies in Tandon, Hum/SS, and ____, and unit chair. Finally to flag: there is also a position in existence in our contract called "health and safety representatives" who are guaranteed regular meetings with the university, which might be good for us to activate in light of the healthcare issues.

Patrick: there will be funding for 2 delegates to CGEU from the Local.

Claudia: Second issue is that we were planning to talk about an appeal of the BDS vote. It was initially filed with the Local, but we were then informed that official procedure says it should be filed at the unit level. Just today we received an email fwded by Maida from the the president of the Int'l saying that since the appeal process with UAW 2865 was rejected by the PRB and the GSOC vote was "materially the same", the appeal submitted by the GSOC for Open Dialogue no longer needs to happen because it goes against the expressed position of the president. The grounds for this are that the president several years ago at one point stated that he did not support BDS, and that statement is now being used as an official position of the UAW. There

are provisions in the constitution that prohibit any subordinated body from taking a position contrary to the position of the executive or higher body. This essentially prevents any minority position from coming up for debate or being raised. Although our resolution was rejected by the International, as far as we are concerned it stands as an expression of member free speech, unless or until that is challenged or overturned by a court.

Nate: just to clarify, the upshot is that we still want to hear the appeal at the unit level, or that is still an option, pending further information.

Colette: this is very new information so maybe we should table this discussion until we have more information

Shelley: I think it's appalling that the UAW doesn't recognize our ability to take stands and exercise our free speech.

Internal Governance:

Sean: I'm resigning my steward seat because I won't be here for most of Fall, and a steward has a responsibility to organize on the ground.

Nate: Regarding votes in this meeting: the plan is to take two votes and record them both, because of the situation with the contested stewards. When the two votes don't agree with each other our proposal is to table the vote pending further consensus-building and discussion.

Anne: there is actually no one here who was not elected.

Hazem: I would like to be a steward because I've been invested in the union...

Interim steward confirmation: **unanimously passes**

Nate: I would like to somewhat belatedly put myself forward to serve as a steward (in both universes, under Local and unit procedures) part of the reason for which is because I am serving as unit rep and want everything to be as above-board as possible

Vote: **confirmed, with one abstention**

Unit rep elections:

Claudia: we need to submit names by July 1st, so need to have this vote now. We have received three acceptances of nominations by acceptance on the email list, any others? (none)

Sarah: that's open to who? Acclaimed stewards?

Claudia: We'll say that's open to either universe stewards.

Abhinav: We need to really organize Tandon, and that would be my primary focus. There are a lot of cases of lost jobs and ppl losing health insurance for Spring, with ridiculous reasoning given by NYU. I'm getting emails now from students who know there is a union and have grievances.

Vinay: what are the eligibility requirements for steward and unit rep?

Claudia: any steward can run for unit rep. Steward seats are allotted to districts.

Hazem: I've been involved but very busy, but now is the time where I would like to play a larger role...

Jess: I've been around and involved in GSOC since 2011 and would be really happy to serve. I think Steinhardt particularly needs representation at the unit rep level because we have so many collective grievances. I've been involved in horizontal democratic movements and labor organizing since maybe 2007, and was involved in unionizing here at NYU, the contract campaign, founding AWDU, and was on the Votes and Bylaws committees. I see my main job as administrative and bureaucratic, processing grievances, and empowering the rank-and-file. I am particularly interested in building relationships with other contingent workers in other units and locals.

Candidates: Hazem, Jess, and Abhinav

Hazem: **elected unanimously**
Abhinav: **elected unanimously**
Jess: **elected unanimously**
(congratulations!!)

Jacob: one suggestion for the bylaws committee: if we think it is likely that we will continue electing someone to be an interim steward and then a unit rep, maybe we want to change the steward requirement, given that there is not a significant difference.

CGEU delegates:

Conference will be held in LA from August 13-16, every unit gets two voting delegates, for us to elect, and who will get travel funding from the Local. Nominations?

Claudia is interested.

Nathan is interested.

Jess is going to go, and would like to be an alternate.

Claudia and Nathan unanimously confirmed as our voting delegates. Jess unanimously confirmed as an alternate.

Unit Chair:

This is a role created by Local Bylaws and our contract, which specifies there is a Unit Chair position. Maida and Patrick have specified that this is sometimes a joint or co-chair position, which they would be ok with. In our unit bylaws it was written in as a position that could be activated in the future, and since the election is in the fall we are considering activating it. We could have this overlap with the unit rep position but the unit chair is a two-year position, so that may be difficult. Ostensibly one could resign after one year and someone else can run. But Bylaws will be researching the roles and responsibilities and report back. The election will probably be co-administered by the Local and the Votes committee.

Sarah: will we have a similar membership voting issue in this election?

Claudia: no doubt. So we'll table this discussion.

Resolutions:

Jess has one on the MCC health insurance issue:

Anne has one on the NYU board's refusal to divest, and in solidarity with NYU Divest.

Already voted on GSOC having a presence at Pride.

Ziad has written a response to Cuomo's recent executive order blacklisting organizations who have endorsed BDS of Israel.

Jess: (introduces the circulated letter) **Resolution endorsed unanimously by stewards**

Anne: (introduces the circulated letter and reads its text) **Resolution endorsed unanimously by stewards**

(Anne reads Ziad's statement against Cuomo's recent executive order against BDS-endorsing institutions and the creation of a blacklist)

Resolution endorsed unanimously by stewards

Committee and Working group check-ins

(Stormy applause for new reps)