

# AoS Meeting

Date: June 10

Place: Silver Grad Student Lounge

Facilitator: Darach Miller

Note keeper: Anna Eva Hallin

Present head stewards: Chirs Nickell, Kilian Walsh, Michelle O'Brien, Rani Yeung, Seana Lymer, Anne Pasek, Rory Solomon (for second half of meeting), Sean Larson (from 1pm), Claudia Carrera

Jessica Feldman (from noon), Darach Miller, Romeo Alexander, Anna Eva Hallin, Ella Wind (skype), Ziad Dallal (skype), Nathan Pensler (skype)

Members present: Tess Rankin, David Klassen

**Agenda** *(somewhat modified, in agreement with all present stewards)*

## 1. Set up facilitation strategy for today's meeting (simpler version of Robert's Rules)

Darach made a proposal which was amended in discussion:

Item to be discussed

- Discussion facilitated by facilitator (Darach) and stack-keeper (Seana) including
  - Points of information
  - Points of order
  - Resolutions
- Anyone can make a proposal and call for a vote
- The note keeper reads back the proposal from the note
- Vote (simple majority, if clear, no votes needs to be counted)

**Vote/decision:** the above proposal was unanimously approved.

## 2. Reviewing notes from last meeting

Seana: talked through notes from last meeting

Comments:

- Steward training open is for all, but a unit-wide invitation will not be sent (Chris)
- Card drive should be the focus of the summer.
- The main decision point was that we would set up e-mail elections for Summer Unit Reps, where consequently Chris, Anne, and Seana were elected, and e-mail nominations for fall Unit reps.

## 3. Brief committee updates

Communications (Chris): trying to keep up with all things communications related, meeting tonight June 10, to execute a redesign of homepage.

Political solidarity (Michelle): First meeting June 18th 3 pm. Summer goal: establish active ties with political organizations around the city. Want more people involved!

Contract enforcement (Darach, Anna): FAQ and homepage - PDF version of union sign up card is pre-approved. Will continue working around dependent healthcare and bonuses. Make sure that cancelled classes do not get forgotten.

Organizing (Ella): Working on timeline goals for a card campaign in the fall, Maida, Patrick, Ken are currently looking over it.

Bylaws (Claudia): discussions are ongoing, and a longer timeline is in the making. Next meeting is on Friday 6/12.

#### **4. Summary of last meeting with NYU (Chris)**

Healthcare: Two major issues were discussed: 1) the glitch online where you cannot sign up your dependent for basic. 2) When you are getting covered and when you're not. GSOC pushed for two rounds of enrollment: pre-enrollment and then an ongoing enrollment (in which remaining money could be distributed). Nothing decided yet, but NYU have to come back regarding this soon.

Bonuses: NYU is reinterpreting what executing means and say that bonuses will maybe be paid by the end July. We are planning to file a grievance around June 15th (which is sixty days after April 15), or at the latest end of June. Currently the electronic petition for bonuses has 320 signatures.

Child care: Meeting regarding child care will be in August, Michelle will bottom line.

Steinhardt fees for PhD students within the 5 years of their program: No specific news. Trying to figure out the differences between programs to have stronger arguments. Anne and Anna will continue to work with this.

#### **5. Other updates**

- Fight for 15 Wage (Ziad and Michelle)
- 15 dollar minimum salary campaign (national) Event on Monday at NYU.
- What and whens (we need a presence - please come!):
  - *Sunday June 14*, 2 pm 25 West 18th street 5th floor: planning/making banners
  - *Monday June 15*, Kimmel, NYU: meet 8.30 am outside of KIMMEL, main event is between 10-2 pm.

#### **6. Bylaws committee report back**

- **To clarify where decisions on asking for payment for summer reps were made**
  - Claudia explained the decision making behind the summer unit reps asking for payment in the NYU meeting. This had been suggested in the bylaws committee, separate from the pre-meeting. The discussion on who will have the authority to make our strategic decisions and the power of the separate committees is an important issue to hash out, and we agreed to dedicate time for this at a later meeting (see also #7).
  
- **On organizational structure:**

- Claudia presented a suggestion for the structure of Graduate Employee Representatives and Unit representatives and how those positions relate to each other - "[A proposal for internal unit structure](#)".
- This proposal is for nominations in the summer (now) and will last through the fall of 2015, until full bylaws have been approved by the membership.
- Discussion led to minor amendments of the initial proposal with language including who can be nominated/appointed for a position and references to Articles of Representation and Elections (ARE), and a suggestion that we should not anticipate challenges from NYU regarding these positions beforehand.
- Since there were disagreements on whether to have a Steering committee or not (The BLC is currently not recommending this), this part of the proposal was not included in the final vote, and this will be further discussed.
- This is the final language of the proposal:
  - We propose to 1) maintain the structure in the ARE linking 3 Unit Representatives to the 3 Graduate Employee Representative (GER) positions for fall 2015 with the same eligibility requirements as the Articles of Representation (articles 2a and 2b)*
  - 2) task them with the following responsibilities: writing agendas and securing spaces and facilitation personnel for AoS and member meetings; liaising with NYU in formal meetings up to four times per semester and informally via email; liaising with Local 2110 through the Joint Council and the office of the President, as well as the Sub-region, Region, and International representatives; nominating people to be hired as unit staff and managing unit staff; managing committees;*
  - 3) and allow each term's Unit Representatives to divide these responsibilities amongst themselves as they see fit.*

**Vote/decision:** the proposal with amendments was read out loud (above) and was unanimously accepted with quorum (16 steward votes for, no votes against). This text is now frozen, please see [this document](#).

## 7. Responsibilities amongst committees etc.

This is an important question so that we cover all areas that we need to cover and which decision powers the different committees should have, and the suggestion was to have a meeting dedicated to this. In addition, a proposal was made:

- The three summer Unit reps will together come up with an organizational suggestion (bottom lined by Anne). This suggestion will be shared and discussed over e-mail as well as in our next meeting.

**Vote/decision:** all in favor for the above proposal.

## 8. Autonomy and existence of "Special Bonus Enforcement Committee"

- Seana: this is a question about what committees can or can't do in terms of strategic decisions, which is a bylaws issue. See #7 and #5 above.

## 9. Guests to AoS meeting (Chris)

- Meetings are open to all people in the bargaining unit currently. There should be procedures to invite people that are not part of the unit (like union staff/ reps, like liaisons from other organizations).

Chris made a proposal which was amended in discussion:

- After the GERs put together the agenda, guests can be invited based on need and based on the agenda.
- Anyone can nominate a guest, and send that to the Unit reps with a rationale.
- If the GERs agree to approve the guest (as representatives of the whole group) - then the guest is invited
- If one or more GERs do not agree to approve the guest - they will ask all other stewards to vote on a combined RSVP/Guest sheet, with approval or rejection by simple majority of those voting.
- The deadline to fill out the sheet will be communicated clearly by the GERs

**Vote/decision:** the above proposal was unanimously approved.

## 10. GERs/Union reps for fall

### Procedure for voting

Proposal for voting procedure (amended in discussion):

- Since we had quorum in this meeting, the present stewards decided that there will be no absentee voting in keeping with past practice at member meetings and the first AoS meeting.

*Voting procedure:*

- Read out the candidates out loud.
- Each steward will write down three names on a paper (David K takes skyper's votes)
- Hand paper to Tess.
- The people who have the most votes will be nominated for the unit reps
- If there is a tie between #3 and 4 we will have a run-off.

**Vote/decision:** the above proposal was unanimously approved.

### Election

We voted for the following nominees according to the procedure above:

**Jacob Denz (GSAS German):** see previously sent e-mail statement

**Ella Wind (GSAS Sociology):** see previously sent e-mail statement

**Chris Nickel (GSAS Music):** see previously sent e-mail statement

**Seana Lymer (GSAS Biology):** made statement/presentation in meeting

**Kilian Walsh (GSAS Physics):** made statement/presentation in meeting

**Nathan Pensler:** retracts his e-mail nomination, since he wants someone from STEM to be a unit rep.

**Results:** Seana, Chris and Ella were elected and will be nominated for Unit rep positions in the fall (with 15, 14, 13 votes respectively). Kilian had 5 votes, and Jacob 1 vote.

In addition Rani Yeung and Darach Miller were elected “dummy” nominees for both summer and fall, to comply with the contract that states that we have to nominate at least 5 people to NYU.

### **11. Next meetings**

Main issue: organization. Anne will come up with an organizational chart together with the other Unit reps, that will be discussed over e-mail and then prioritized in next meeting.

We also discussed the possibility of having an extra meeting to just discuss day-to-day organization: e-mailing, communication etc.