

December AoS / Member Meeting agenda

Tuesday December 13th, 4:30pm at Judson

Facilitating: Anne

Notetaking: Alex Campolo

Present: Chris, Ian, Vinay, Alex, Seana, Anne, Claire, Colette, Maya, Isaac, Gabriel, James, Nadeem, Shay, Patrick

Executive summary: Our healthcare campaign is off to a good start, and is set to resume in the Spring. Big arbitration fights are on the horizon. There's casual but important work to be done over the break.

Action Items:

- Issue with 8th years in the bargaining unit: Stewards who have been assigned departments need to email to ask if there are 8th years in the department being denied membership benefits.
- Send another email to department contacts:
<https://www.change.org/p/new-york-university-and-uaw-not-a-single-inch-gsoc-uaw-and-labor-s-fight-against-trump>
- Creating a group of people to review and refine lists. Seana will send an initial email about tasks to: Chris, Colette, Alex, Maya, Ian, Nadeem, Clare, Gabriel

Introductions, agenda review, & announcements

Overview & approval of November minutes

- unanimous approval

Committee/JC Reports (20 min)

- Unit Reps
 - Had an amazing showing to pressure NYU into giving up their proposed changes to the unit rep position, WHICH WE WON! Action doesn't seem to have had any other collateral impacts with NYU HR.
 - No new collective grievances, but some ongoing on individual reimbursements.
 - Late Hire grievance is officially going to arbitration, which we seem to have good standing for in the contract. Likely not to happen until Spring or Summer.
 - Child Care subsidy application has been approved by NYU and will be live through January. Open to anyone with children under 6.
 - Found NYU's link to dependent health care reimbursement, and we need to push this link as much as possible because NYU has buried it.
 - <http://www.nyu.edu/students/health-and-wellness/student-health-center/insurance-patient-accounts/student-health-insurance/plans-overview.html>
 - We do not want people to miss out on this because they couldn't find it. DUE JAN 7 for fall. We do have data on the number of people who applied last fall (~20 people) and everyone was awarded full amount, but we don't know how many people bought.
 - Can we find a way to streamline the distribution of this info? Keep pushing the healthcare primer on the website.
 - Everyone should send the [healthcare primer](#) to departments.

- Issue with upper-year graduate course assistants being excluded from benefits. How can we pressure NYU to change these cases? NYU has said that anyone beyond the 7th year doesn't apply. However, this should be totally clear wrt to course assistants (no grounds for ambiguity).
 - Do we want to make this a collective action? Publicity? How many people is it happening to? Do we have data on how many 8th years we have? Can we get this? First action would be to get affected folks together to pressure on boss. On us to go to our departments to identify 8th years in our departments. Will need someone to bottomline this. *Seems* to be localized in Steinhardt.
 - NYU will delay in the grievance process for as long as possible. Anyone able to organize around or collect info on this issue? **ACTION ITEM: Stewards who have assigned departments need to email these and inquire what the status of upper years.**
- Maternity leave grievance arbitration has been scheduled for May 23, which is another big, precedent-setting case. University has been giving absolute bare minimum of 5 days of paid leave for to life-changing events. Really brazen NYU policy. Hopeful that strong contract language and the law will make this a strong case for us. Qs: How to connect this to healthcare campaign's demand for paid medical leave. How to coordinate between arbitration and healthcare. Really need to publicize these cases and victories.
- Tandon healthcare reimbursements are proceeding on a case by case basis and often will not be reimbursed until after the fact.
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- Organizing:
 - Will cover most of this during the section on healthcare. Flyering has been started and we will strategize on next steps. Flyers are available to hang in common spaces around campus. (see email list as well).
- PoliSoli:
 - Organizing buses to attend the 1/21 women's march in Washington DC. Want to have as many GSOC members there as possible. Check the GSOC activists link for a flyer and a signup link. Pass out and hang up flyers around the department. Target 40 or 50 on a bus! Another way to have critical conversations with fellow union members around NYC.
- Communications:
 - Published issue 6 of Graduate Worker Rank and File Zine oriented to support of healthcare campaign. Good resource to bring during healthcare organizing.
 - Draft of letter to people who haven't yet signed cards. This is important to index our strength to NYU.
 - Cleaning email lists (hopefully) over winter break. Super important! Need volunteers.
- JC:
 - Minutes forthcoming from the last meeting (2 weeks ago?) from Chris.

- First meeting after national elections, which the local helped organize for.
- Possibility of a more left, militant response to the results of the election. These conversations will be continued.
- Local 2110 holiday party next Monday evening at Barnard—important work to meet fellow workers in our local PLUS new members from Columbia
- Update from Local 2110:
 - Holiday Party on Monday, December 19, 5:30 - 7:30 pm @ The Oval, Barnard College, Broadway at 119th.
 - Need to celebrate MASSIVE victory at Columbia despite disgusting union-busting campaign from CU. Humiliating and total defeat for Columbia admins.
 - Harvard vote is still being counted due to large numbers of contested ballots due to admin's inability/strategy to get proper lists together.

Resolutions (5 min)

- Endorsement for postal banking

Resolution

"In light of the fact that nearly 28% of U.S. households are underserved by traditional banks, GSOC-UAW Local 2110 recognizes the critical need to expand affordable financial services for low-income households. We therefore support the expansion of postal banking and call for the installation of surcharge-free ATMs making it possible for recipients of public benefits to access funds without paying a fee; the expansion of financial services to include payroll check cashing; and the provision of bill paying services and electronic funds transfers in all US post offices."

- Chris reads resolution on affordable financial solutions via postal banking [above]
- Vote: Resolution passes unanimously
- Labor Against Trump
 - No resolution updates, but NEEDS to be strategically pushed.
 - Can also integrate this with more specific anti-Trump campaigns

Unit Rep election - spring 2017 (20 min)

- **Four unit rep candidates: Clare Busch, Nadeem Mansour, Vinay Banpel, Shayen Yu Xia**
- Vote: Claire Busch, Vinay Banpel, and Nadeem Mansour elected to unit rep positions.
 - Meetings and info to follow
- Given vacancies, Anne moves to appoint the above elected unit reps as interim stewards.
 - Unanimous approval

Healthcare campaign -- last meeting of the semester! (30+ min)

[REDACTED]

What union work can be done over the break? (5 mins)

- Initial ideas from CP: listwork and comms reach/email list strategy both badly needed!!!
 - Lists need to be cleaned:
 - Department lists, bargaining unit lists, and email lists.
 - To be able to send targeted emails through mailchimp, you need to have complete information.

- Email list strategizing: Need to have regular email alerts about AoS, GSOC healthcare meetings.
- Need to go into departments to update lists.