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Issue One
of the NYU graduate
union newsletter



fig. 1
solidarity



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Ongoing Grievances with the University

Particularly in the first year of our contract, there will be many errors and different interpretations on how the collective agreement should be enforced. Here are some highlights of our efforts to stand up for grad worker rights this summer. Contact us if you have a problem that we could help with.

Maintenance of matriculation fees at Steinhardt and Silver Schools

Ph.D. students at Steinhardt and Silver have vastly different funding packages than their colleagues at GSAS. They have to pay about \$4,000 in fees yearly after completing their coursework, on top of paying for their own health insurance out-of-pocket. We pushed to have this inequity recognized during bargaining, and we're still fighting for action on this promise. NYU will hear our case on September 3rd at 8:30am at 105 E. 17th St. Contact us if you have testimony to contribute or would like to attend.

Bonus payments

Many of you have received bonuses for your work at NYU Fall 2013–Spring 2015 and discovered that much was withheld. We are unable to challenge Payroll's over-withholding, but you will at least get some of this money back when you do your taxes in April 2016. For the 200+ workers who were

wrongfully excluded from these payments, we are continuing to press NYU to process our corrections. We also are grieving the collective exclusion of certain worker groups and welcome your presence at this hearing, also September 3, at a morning hour TBD:

- **“Graders” at IFA, Steinhardt Food Studies and Nutrition, and others (whose duties encompass classroom time and office hours)**
- **Tisch Cinema Studies first- and second-year Ph.D. students**
- **Steinhardt Communicative Sciences and Disorders “Problem-Based Learning Tutors”**

Let us know if you still haven't received an expected payment, or if you think that your job has been wrongfully excluded from the bargaining unit!

Class cancellations

If you receive an appointment letter for the Fall 2015 semester and your class is cancelled without an appropriate replacement of employment, contact us immediately! We have three summer session grievances most likely going to arbitration on this issue.

Upcoming Elections

We have seats to fill on the Local's Joint Council and our unit's Assembly of Stewards. Contact us if you're interested in representing your colleagues!

Assembly of Stewards seats are divided into districts, open to all grads. The openings are:

- **Professional Schools (including Steinhardt, Silver, Wagner, and Tisch): at least three (3) open seats**
- **GSAS Sciences, Technology, and Mathematics: one (1) open seat**
- **2 MetroTech, Poly: three (3) open seats**
- **4 and 6 MetroTech, Poly: five (5) open seats**
- **GSAS Humanities and Social Sciences: none!**

Joint Council seats are open to all current workers.

- **Local 2110 Joint Council: approximately twenty-four (24) open seats**

First Ever General Meeting

We are having our first ever General Meetings in late September. These events are open to ALL graduate students who work or could work in a union job. Come celebrate grad student worker solidarity and learn about your rights and benefits under the contract and our new proposed bylaws. Join us for part or all of these meetings—there will be food and interesting people to meet!

— **September 21 (Washington Square)**

— **September 24 (School of Engineering)**

Times and rooms TBA. Find us online for more details!

A reminder about health insurance

Our new contract provides a number of health benefits while working in a union position. Check out our website home page for a primer!

Rally Against the Corporate University

On September 1, GSOC and many of our allies will join in protest against the Corporate University, in particular the Sexton Expansion Plan—an expensive, gentrifying real estate grab long opposed by the neighbourhood.

Meet at **Garibaldi's Statue in Washington Square Park, on September 1st at 4pm.**

Get Involved with GSOC!

There are ways for every grad to get involved, depending on the time and skills you have to offer:

Become a volunteer Steward!

Stewards are the backbone of the union and the first point of contact for members when something goes wrong. Anyone can learn how to advocate for and represent their fellow members.

Join the Assembly!

The GSOC Assembly of Stewards (AoS) is the locus for contract enforcement, as well as the chief legislative body of GSOC. Only elected Stewards have a vote, but meetings are open to all members.

Join a Committee!

Most work at GSOC happens in committees. These working groups are open to all GSOC members and are dedicated to helping keep our union strong. Whether you're a people person, graphic designer, great organizer, stats genius, or enthusiastic baker, this is a great way to share your skills and meet new people.

Sign up to be a Casual Volunteer!

Sometimes it's hard to juggle graduate studies, work, and union activities at the same time. If you still want to help out and keep up-to-date with the union's efforts but aren't ready for one of the commitments above, consider joining our mailing list for odd jobs and special projects.

For more details, visit:

www.makingabetternyu.org

