

GSO Meeting Minutes

Prepared by Secretary/Treasurer Andrew Seredinski
September 7, 2016

Number in attendance at call to order: 10

Entered after call to order: 2

Meeting called to order at 12:34pm.

1. Union Presentation

Two graduate students and two organizers joined the GSO to present on the unionization effort.

The unionization process proceeds as follows:

- 1) 30% of graduate students sign cards (can be digitally) that go to the SEIU (Service Employees International Union) and the NLRB to file (in the process as of this meeting).
- 2) Ballots are mailed home to graduate students. Grads return them with vote for or against unionizing.
- 3) Vote is carried with 50%+1, in which case the union is automatically formed. All graduate students are automatically members, but they can opt out and choose not to pay dues (though collective bargaining results will still apply to them).
- 4) Union goes in to bargaining after a survey of the needs of the members is made and committees solidify how these should be addressed. Duke administration sits down with the union for two consecutive days of eight hour bargaining sessions. All grad students can attend (even if they did not vote for the union). This process continues (potentially for months).
- 5) The union votes to ratify whatever contract is decided upon. This requires a majority.

In the past, efforts made by GPSC on issues like dental coverage have been ignored. The union would have more options. Actions include: asking local politicians for support (adjunct faculty had the city council state their support for the union), button days, rallies, etc.

Dues: No dues would be paid until a contract is ratified. The cost of dues is determined collectively by the members of the union. At peer institutions, this has been roughly 2% of salary.

2. Committees

GPSC Rep: Mike Eggelston

Social Chair: Yingru Xu

Campout: Matt Meers

Curriculum: Andrew Seredinski, Jiani Huang

Ombudspersons: Meg Shea, Andrew Seredinski

Election Commissioner: Connor Awe

GSS: Dong Wang, Agheal Abed Zadeh

Colloquium: Agheal Abed Zadeh, Yuchen Zhao

Computing: Hershdeep Singh

Unfilled (contact Ron Malone if interested)

News/website:

Recruitment:

3. Teaching Concerns

There will be a meeting Wednesday 9/14/16 at 1:30pm in Physics 298 regarding the agenda for a meeting with the ACT (Steffen Bass). The primary concern is improving the quality of instruction in the core courses. Justin will email the GSO a reminder.

4. Grads-Chair and Grad-DGS Meetings

Ron will schedule full GSO meetings with both the Chair and the DGS. They will likely be on Wednesdays.

5. Upcoming Events

Campout: need to register by 9/9/2016. Talk to Matt Meers in person or email him.

ORNL: Justin is collaborating with other departments on a trip to ORNL. It is not possible to have it during Fall break this year, and it may be more of a collaboration forming trip than in the past, though still geared towards 1st and 2nd years.

Tea Times: sign up to organize them or email Yingru Xu to volunteer. These will be held on Wednesdays on weeks when there is not a colloquium.

6. Other Concerns

Rec fee: department will pay half of the fee for 4th and 5th year students. Nancy will email you if you're in this group and registered in the fall. The department will pay of the Spring semester portion of it.

Meeting adjourned at 1:17pm.