February 28th will mark a whole calendar year without a contract. We have had ten bargaining sessions with CUNY, in which the University has put across no economic offer. Negotiations were stalled, at CUNY’s behest, for three months. Despite this, at the tenth bargaining session, they accused the PSC of dragging our feet. CUNY has, in the past, put its workers through extended periods without settling a contract (two contract cycles ago we went for five years). In the meantime, cost of living is skyrocketing and workers are sacrificing necessities to get by. To get CUNY to take us seriously, we have to build serious power. This is why the Union is organizing “informational pickets” to coincide with bargaining on the 29th of February. Reach out to us to find out how you can get involved.

MY YEAR OF AUSTERITY AND CONTRACTLESSNESS

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**Strike School #1- Great Success!**

On the 26th of January, CUNY folk gathered in-person and online to talk about the dire situation of our university and to talk over some of the options about how to fight it. Around 250 people across the modalities learned about the economic reality of the university, the nature of a strike and the legal obstacles (the Taylor law) to achieving it, and the secrets to good organizing. There will be a second strike school online on the 22nd of February.

**Bargaining Update**

On January 26th, CUNY finally returned to the bargaining table. After three months away, there was plenty of ground to cover. Sixty people turned up to observe the session, and the union put forward some important demands. The PSC called for the regularization of contact hour loads for adjunct faculty and grad assistants; compensation for losing a class, and for late pay checks; the reduction of the required number of reappointments before HEO’s qualify for a CCAS; more significant tuition waivers for adjuncts (teaching, non-teaching, CLT, CLIP and CUNY Start) and relatives of PSC employees, among other important provisions. CUNY made no economic offer, but dealt, as usual, in an underhanded and malicious way.
Classless and Latepaid in CUNY

With the budget cuts from December (or at least using that as an excuse), many CUNY schools cut adjuncts at the list minute for Spring semester. If you lost a class, the PSC wants to hear from you. Fill out the google form [here](#). If you received your stipend late this year, or still haven’t received it, the PSC also wants to hear from you (just another semester at our wonderful university) [here](#).

The GC is Fed!

We returned this semester to find a brand-spanking new dining facilities upgrade courtesy of Aladdin catering. The cafeteria offers burgers, pizzas, a rotating Caribbean/latin buffet and a salad bar. It also offers cold drinks, tea and coffee. It’s not too poorly priced, and the food is edible. It does make one think dreamily of the days we Reclaimed the Commons, however. The GC’s students deserve a university that feels like a university– we deserve somewhere we can actually hang out and...talk, like good academics and human beings.

STEM Corner

Welcome to the STEM Corner! This part of our newsletter will be dedicated entirely to all things STEM-related. As passionate advocates for the STEM community, we recognize the importance of fostering connections among workers in CUNY STEM. This section will focus on issues of labor conditions and general news about life in STEM at the City University. We’re interested to hear what’s going on at each campus, and to cover issues that aren’t being talked about enough. Don’t hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or topics you’d like to see addressed. Email us at adjunctproject@cunydgsc.org to give us a tip-off or ask any questions you might have. Together, let’s cultivate a vibrant and supportive community within the realm of STEM!
DGSC Elections

The Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council, the GC student government, is opening the ballot for nominations on Feb 1. You can nominate other registered students and/or yourself to represent your program and the student community at large during 2024-2025. This is your opportunity to have a say about the issues and policies that impact you and help decide how your student activity fees get spent!

The list of all positions up for nomination, their descriptions and duties, as well as eligibility requirements are stated at the end of this email. You can also find them here.

Nominations ballot for the 2024-2025 DGSC Elections for representative will be open from February 1, to March 1 (11:59pm ET). To access the ballot click here.

Log-in instructions:

Username = EMPLID (CUNYFirst ID)

Password (all lowercase) = first initial + last initial + 4-digit year of birth

If you find yourself unable to access nominations through the link above: any enrolled student may also make a nomination from February 1 to March 1 via email to ccsa@cunydsc.org. This is especially important for those who are having issues with enrollment. After students are contacted about their nominations in March, the elections ballot will be open April 1-May 2.

If you have any questions, including about the roles and responsibilities of these DGSC positions, please contact the Co-Chair for Student Affairs, Sayantika Mondal, at ccsa@cunydsc.org. You can also find a description of these positions below.