



Summer of Bargaining

A lot has happened at the bargaining table (and away from it) since our last newsletter came out this past winter. If you haven't followed the negotiations closely, you might be surprised that we haven't settled already, but if you've attended bargaining regularly, you probably understand just how slow and occasionally frustrating negotiations have been. This column should be enough to catch everybody up with the current status of bargaining, but it'd take pages to get all the details in, especially about the actions we've taken away from the bargaining table, so those who are hungry for more after they read this column should check out our bargaining blog at cge6069.org.

We've made decent progress on a few of the articles we reopened, particularly with regards to workload limits, where, after many, many iterations with the OSU administration, it appears as though we have pretty much converged on language we can agree to. Under the latest proposals, the administration has agreed to distinguish between hours worked during the 11 instructional weeks and those worked during the two additional weeks of the employment period with the end result being that, if the employer does not have work for you to do in those two additional weeks, they cannot force you to work those hours during the 11 instructional weeks without your permission. We've also made some progress towards encouraging departments to advertise open non-academic assistantships.

On economics, however, there is still some distance between what the administration is offering and what we are offering. The administration's last proposal would eliminate the \$300/term fee differential for all grad employees and replace it by rolling the technology and registration fees (which sum to \$116/term) into tuition. Engineers and MBA students would also see their programmatic resource fees rolled into tuition (\$430/term for Engineers; \$350/term for MBAs). The administration also proposed to implement a \$120/term differential only for existing grad employees outside of Engineering and Business. In other words, incoming grad employees, Engineers, and MBAs would not receive the \$120/term differential. In addition, the administration proposed a 5% raise in 2011-12 for those earning the grad school's recommended minimum salary (\$3543/month at 1.0 FTE) or less. The net result of this proposal is that grad employees outside Engineering and Business who make more than the grad school's recommended minimum salary (a majority of grad employees) end up taking a loss to subsidize a gain for Engineers and MBAs. CGE cannot agree to this, nor can we agree to a proposal that initiates structural inequalities between different classes of grad employees (e.g. new grads vs. existing grads or Engineers/MBAs vs. everyone else).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL BBQ

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010
MAPLE GROVE SHELTER - AVERY PARK
1-5PM

REPRESENTATIVE RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 11TH - 10 AM

FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
5:30 PM, CORVALLIS SENIOR CENTER

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In response to this proposal, CGE has proposed to maintain the \$300/term differential for all grad employees while still rolling the same fees into tuition as were proposed by the administration (technology, registration, and programmatic resource fees). In addition, we are proposing to raise the minimum salary (currently \$2811/month at 1.0 FTE) to the graduate school's recommended minimum.

While OSU initially told us they couldn't afford our proposals, when we asked for proof, they backpedaled and said it "wasn't in their interest" to raise the minimum, even though we've heard from about two dozen Department Chairs that they support raising the minimum. We can only continue to believe what we have suspected all along: the OSU administration is treating negotiations with CGE simply as an opportunity to minimize the cost of grad employee labor. We hope they prove us wrong. In the meantime, we will continue to fight to improve conditions for all grad employees at OSU.

CGE 2010 Executive Council

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GTA/GRA, Forest Engineering, Resources and Management

WE ADDED TWO NEW CHAIRS!

**THESE NON-VOTING POSITIONS
SEEK TO ALIGN OUR EFFORTS
WITH OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS AS
WELL AS FOSTER
RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN CGE**

**JOHN OSBORNE
EXTERNAL RELATIONS CHAIR
GRA, COAS**

**MICHELLE MARIE
ACTIVITIES CHAIR
GTA, DHE**

Keep up to date on the latest news - Check out our blog at
<http://cge6069.org>

CALLING ALL DEPARTMENT REPS

We are looking for Department Reps for the following Programs:

Philosophy/Applied Ethics
Environmental Sciences
Agricultural & Resource Economics
Crop & Soil Science
Food Science & Technology
Rangeland Ecology & Management
Applied Economics
History
Biological & Ecological Engineering
MIME
Biochemistry & Biophysics
Nuclear Engineering & Radiation Health Physics

Veterinary Medicine
Horticulture
Animal Science
Environmental & Molecular Toxicology
Microbiology
Master of Public Policy
Foreign Languages & Literatures
Music Education
Civil & Construction Engineering
Pharmacy
Physics

A Department Rep is someone who acts as a liaison between grads in their program and the union and is a vital part of keeping CGE going. If you're interested, get in touch with Michelle the Organizing VP at vp_organizing@cge6069.org or Dennis the Organizer at organizer@cge6069.org!

Letter Delivery to President Ray

As part of our bargaining efforts, CGE members hand-delivered a letter to all academic faculty at OSU about bargaining. As the culmination of delivering over 850 letters, a few of us got together to deliver a letter to President Ray....



2010 CGE T-Shirt Logo Contest!!!

Submit your design idea for a new CGE T-shirt before September 15th by attaching your image to the Coalition of Graduate Employees Facebook wall:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=22020909238>