

GEOC Steering Committee  
Wednesday, January 27, 2010  
8:30 am, AAUP Conference Room

Attending: Debbie, Mark, Carissa, Kate, Devon, Bayley

- I. Updates 8:30 – 8:45
- a. Treasury (Devon)
  - b. Stewards (Phoebe) We are still trying to get schedules and there has not yet been a meeting.
  - c. Grievances (Mark) Everyone has been correctly allocated and is being paid correctly. The next task is checking on members whose dues status has changed unexpectedly.
  - d. Database (Mark) It is up and running. Mark and Carissa will take a look next Monday to see what we want to add (for example, service fee versus full member, opinion of the union, member concerns, etc.) and how we want to use it. It should greatly help with organizing.
  - e. Labor Council (Mark) GEOC was unable to send a representative last time and overall the turnout was low. The next meeting will February 9<sup>th</sup> and officer elections and the future of Labor Council will be discussed.
- II. Leadership for Next Year 8:45 – 9:00
- a. Who is still planning to be active next year? Positions you are hoping to fill? Opening positions will include Lisa's, Kate's and Bayley's and might include Devon's, Jason's and Carissa's.
  - b. How should we go about filling other positions?
    - i. Are there stewards we know would fit well in a position? Possibly, for example Nick.
    - ii. Others who have expressed interest in GEOC? Mark knows someone in Political Science as well. John may come to a Steering Meeting. James is an option as well, as are Sun and Dan.

The positions that must be filled include President, Treasurer, Secretary and Grievance Chair. Devon may become a member-at-large, Debbie may move to secretary-treasurer and Carissa will change positions as well. The minimum Steering we need is four people.

We may explore low-cost options to video conference or do conference calls instead of having Steering meetings in person. The concern with remote meetings is that our organization is based on face-to-face interaction and if we can't even get our leaders together, how are we going to motivate the membership at large?

We will run with it as we need to, and a decision does not need to be made right now.
- III. Bowling Fundraiser for PAC 9:00 – 9:05
- a. Given the discussion of how many positions we will need to fill, what is our final verdict on the PAC fundraiser? We can support the PAC on a much smaller scale. Carissa suggested raffling gift baskets at the next GMM instead. All are in favor of nixing the bowling in favor of baskets.
- III. Campus Martius Ice Skating Party 9:05 – 9:20

- a. How did it go? It was fun but there were not many people. We had one Steward, three Steering and two spouses.
- b. How do we want to proceed with social events?
  - i. Expect just us? / Beef up our organizing and advertising? / Do we have the man power?  
Carissa suggested we just do something we want to do anyway and invite everyone else to the event. Sending out these emails did make us more visible on campus. We do not really have the manpower for more organizing and advertisement. Perhaps instead we will return to a bar night every other week, as these events have had the highest turnout.

- IV. Garden Bowl Social Event: February 12th 9:20 – 9:30
- a. In light of past social events this year, do we want to proceed with the Garden Bowl? Mark suggested sending out an email and mentioning it while out organizing. It can be informal and whoever can show makes it. At this time, however, no Steering members can definitively make it. Carissa suggested leaving it open and seeing who shows. Debbie mentioned the need to reserve lanes and suggested cancelling. Mark agreed, and the union has decided to cancel.

- V. GMM / Dues Increase Marketing 9:30 – 9:45
- a. How much do we need to raise dues to keep our current budget with the dollar dues gone to stay afloat? To keep Mark, membership gear (but most importantly Mark), the retreat, social events, teaching awards, GMMs, etc. full members must be up to 2% and service fee payers to 1.8%. Debbie and Bayley suggested creating a new support allocation form.  
If AFT raises dues, we can, in an emergency, raise dues within the union. We are hoping, however, it would not come to this point.
  - b. How much is this dependent on our membership percentages? Not much.
  - c. How do we want to approach marketing a dues increase, and what is our ideal increase? We should market it as the dollars per paycheck amount after raising dues, which is \$3. We need a form showing per pay tier what the increase would be. Carissa suggested also mentioning that this is a good cause. Bayley suggested showing them what us as a bare-bones union would look like on a purely functional budget. Mark said that it's great that we want to show them we are willing to make cuts too, but we should also show them that we bargained for a higher raise (triple the university's offer) and even after raising the dues, the membership is still making more money because of the work the union has done. We can also compare to other universities (ours is less). Carissa suggested having several different sample budgets prepared for the spring GMM. We will continue to discuss this issue.

- VI. Other Eligible Persons committee 9:45 – 9:55
- a. Where are we at right now? We still need to get a survey together. We need the data before we can schedule a meeting. Once we have the survey, we will use it in organizing to ask members to complete it online. Jason may also add SEVIS questions.
  - b. What needs to be done before we meet with the administration again? See above.

- VII. Schedule Organizing sessions with Mark 9:55 – 10:00