

# TECHNIQUE

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

ONLINE <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique>

Serving Georgia Tech since 1911 • Volume 85, Issue 29 • 32 pages

Should parents be notified if their child has an alcohol or drug violation?

CAMPUS LIFE page 11

Baseball sweeps second-ranked UNC-Chapel Hill over the weekend.

SPORTS page 32



Opinions 8 • Campus Life 11 • Entertainment 17 • Comics 24 • Sports 32

## Student fees constitutional

By Lori Morency  
U-WIRE

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court unanimously ruled Wednesday that public colleges and universities could use money from mandatory student fees to fund campus groups that engage in speech others might find objectionable.

The decision in the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin v. Scott Harold Southworth et al. means that women's groups expressing their stance on abortion, student papers writing controversial editorials, and groups serving gay and lesbian students can continue operation while funded by student fees.

The case originated when Scott Southworth, along with the original plaintiffs, former UW law students Amy Schoepke, Keith Bannach, Rebecca Bretz and Rebecca Vander Werf, sued the UW Board of Regents in April 1996.

They claimed mandatory student fees funding private organizations violated their First Amendment rights. The funding, which was assessed at \$165.75 per student in the academic year the case was filed, was mandatory in the sense that students cannot graduate or receive their grades if they do not pay.

In October 1998, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld an earlier Wisconsin court ruling that the mandatory fees violated the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights by forcing them to support political and ideological positions with which they did not agree. The case was then appealed to the Supreme Court and heard by the Court Nov. 9.

Authored by Justice Anthony J. Kennedy, the Supreme Court ruling stated that the First Amendment supports a public university charging student fees if the program is "viewpoint neutral." The Court raised a question in their decision about one piece of the allocation process called a referendum mechanism.

The ruling did not sustain UW's student referendum, "which appears to permit the exaction of fees in violation of the viewpoint neutrality principle," according to the ruling.

A decision on the referendum mechanism was remanded back to the 7th Circuit Court.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Roger Howard said the University of Wisconsin is pleased the Court ruled unanimously and that the text of the ruling includes positive language about the kind of beneficial impact universities can expect from programs that encourage diverse speech.

"It's a great day at Wisconsin after four years of a hard fought argument ... on all sides of the issue," he said.

While waiting for the decision, the process of allocating UW student fees has been underway, Howard said, although the staff found it impossible to plan for changes had there been an adverse decision.

"We knew enough about the alternatives to our current fee system to know there would be potentially a ton of work involved [if the decision had been upheld],"

See Court, page 4

## Parking registration now online

*New system allows students to register for permits at their leisure over the internet*

By Matt Gray  
Assistant News Editor

Starting this year, students will not have to wait in long, slow-moving lines to register for parking permits, as a new online registration system will be introduced. From now on, registration will take place over the internet, with fees being charged to student accounts through the Bursar's Office. Registration begins on April 17 and will run through June 16.

The new online system was a highlight of the parking Bill of Rights, a student initiative encouraging changes in campus parking. The URL is [www.applyparking.gatech.edu](http://www.applyparking.gatech.edu). The site includes several new innovations, most notably an information page with a number of frequently asked questions now available. The Parking Department believes that the FAQ list should address most problems that students have had in the past.

In addition, the parking fee is now charged through the student's Bursar Account. In the past, students had to pay the fee for a permit before the end of the school year to the parking office, but under the new system, fees will be charged at the begin of the fall term to be paid by August 18. By doing so, some scholarships can now be applied to the cost of a permit.

The new system offers improvements over the old system, allowing instant confirmation of registration information via

email. In the past, letters were sent out through the post office, potentially causing confusion through delays. To change registration information, just log back onto the site and reregister. Online registration includes only a few mouse clicks, and can be finished in minutes.

The priority for permits begins with faculty and staff, who are followed by students. Among students, doctoral students have the highest priority, to be followed by graduate students, then seniors, juniors, and then sophomores. First term freshman are not allowed to have a car on campus.

Other changes to parking registration this year include new discounts for carpooling. As part of an initiative to encourage carpooling and help the environment, benefits are being given to students who live off-campus who agree to carpool. For two people, the cost of the permit goes down to \$150. Three people receive free parking, and for four people, parking is free, and a registered space, which normally costs an extra \$625. Each carpool is given one placard and an extra Buzz card.

In addition to registration, the parking department has gone online in other areas. Citations and fines are now being forwarded to the Bursar's office after 30 days, and three notices will be sent out at 10 day intervals. An unpaid ticket can now result in an institution hold instead of a parking hold, meaning that registration could be held due to

unpaid tickets. If necessary, a collection agency could be contacted.

The Parking Department can also now check with the DMV to find the owners of cars in violation of parking regulations. That way, an unregistered car can be traced to the owner, or if

need be, to the parents of the driver.

Since parking officers are now better informed of the status of violations, a car that has 3 or more unpaid tickets or over \$100 in unpaid fines will now be towed regardless of whether or not the car is parked legally.



By Dale Russell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This year's parking registration will be held online for the first time. The parking department is also working harder to enforce tickets given out for parking violations.

## Addition of Tenth Street Plaza video store possible

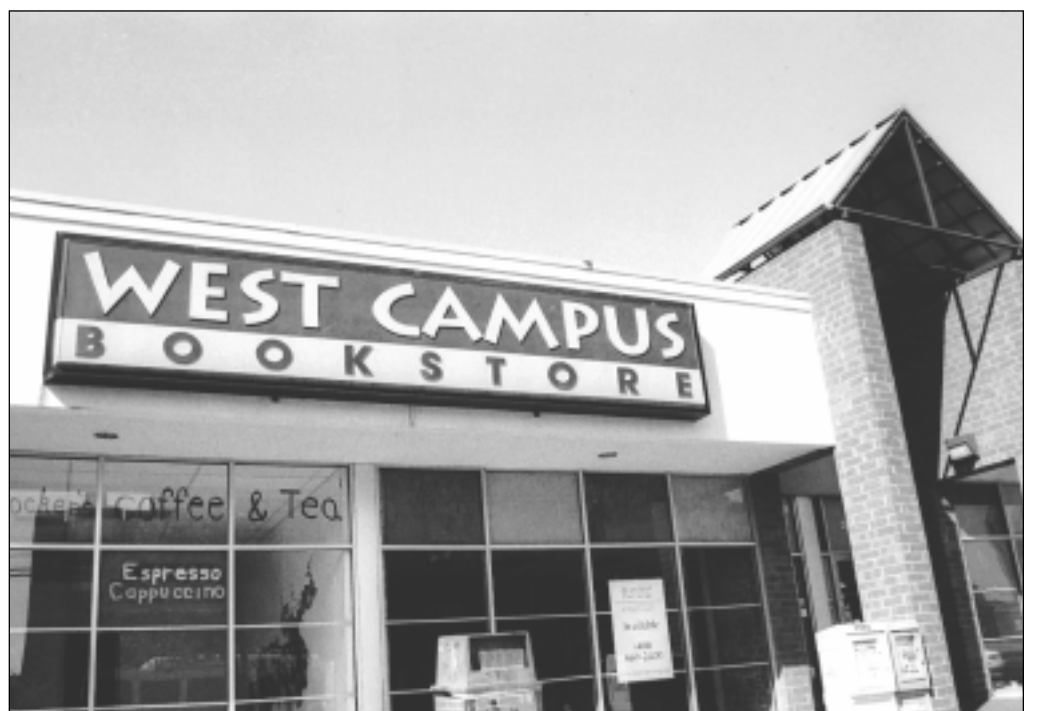
By Angela Swilley  
News Staff

The goal of SGA's Planning and Development Committee is to advance the development of the community around Tech. According to Committee Chair Erica Young, they work on helping to bring "student friendly community development near campus."

Last year they conducted a survey that indicated a large interest in bringing a video rental store nearby, so the Committee has been working very hard on this prospect. Young states that it is one of the Committee's main goals.

They approached the real estate developer for Tech Plaza, on Tenth Street, about the possibility of recruiting a video rental store to fill an available space there. Many businesses have failed

See Video, page 2



By Tony Richards / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The former West Campus Bookstore may be the site of a new video store, if SGA's Planning and Development Committee can illustrate the business would be a success with Tech customers.

# Video

from page 1

in the location previously, so the Committee indicated the interest in a video rental store that could potentiall be successful. The devel- oper asked for more proof, so the Committee complied a survey to directly assess the interest in a Tech Plaza video rental store.

Of the 222 West Campus stu- dents surveyed, all the response were positive about the idea, 92.3% would walk to the store, and 91.4% stated that they would take advantage of a movie and pizza delivery promo- tion.

The space in Tech Plaza is too small for a large video rental chain,

however, so it would have to be filled with a smaller chain or inde- pendent store.

Another option that will defi- nitely be available to students soon is Kozmo.com, a delivery service moving to the Atlanta area by March 31 or April 1. Kozmo.com is al- ready located in New York, New York, Chicago, Illinois, Washing- ton, D.C., Seattle, Washington, Boston, Massachuttets, and San Francisco and Los Angeles, Califor- nia.

Their web site allows you to rent or buy VHS movies, DVD's, and video games for the Playstation,

Nintendo 64, and Dreamcast video game systems.

Also available to order are books, music, magazines, food (such as dairy products like milk and ice cream), and convenience items (such as bat- teries and film).

Ordered items will be delivered to the customer's dorm within an hour. Movies and games are rented for three nights. Rentals will be picked up for \$1 if you do not order any- thing else or free if you order at least \$7 of merchandise. Although you can place orders on the web, for pick-up you must call 1-877- GoKozmo.

Additionally, there will also be drop boxes, most likely near the Student Center and at the Howell

Mill Kroger, where rentals can be dropped off by noon on the day they are due.

Prices are comparable to the large video rental chains, ranging from \$3.50 for VHS general to \$5.00 for a video game.

Young feels that this idea is "re- ally an exciting concept [since at] Tech everyone is computer savvy." She added, "I think they can get a lot of business, and they think so, too."

The Planning and Development Committee is helping Kozmo.com with publicity. A representative from the company spoke at their meet- ing on March 19.

Other options for video rental center are around the Student Cen-

ter. With the expansion of the Stu- dent Center and the Houston Book- store Mall, space may become available.

In addition, the Student Center is examining the possibility of a vid- eo vending machine. Students would probably have to use their Buzz Cards so that the rental could be tracked. Young calls the idea "intriguing," but there would be potential selec- tion and availability problems.

*For more information on the Plan- ning and Development Committee, visit their web site at [http:// cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/sgal/development/ about/](http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/sgal/development/about/) which contains their focus, other information, and a form to contact the committee.*

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good for the soul

# TECHNIQUE

The South's Liveliest is now accepting applications for section editor and assistant editor salaried staff positions for 2000-2001.

As a member of the *Technique* editorial staff, you will have opportunities to:

- Develop leadership skills
- Meet people
- Make contacts across campus
- Improve your communication skills
- Have a good time
- Stay on top of what's going on
- Hear the news first
- Impact campus life and attitudes
- Help shape the future

No previous newspaper experience is necessary, although writing skills are helpful. Please visit <http://www.nique.net/info> for detailed job descriptions and an online application, or stop by the Student Publications office in Room 137 of the Student Services building. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 31.

Council Clippings

# Honor recognition program announces new scholars

By Kim Spuller  
UHR Correspondent

In this week's meeting of the Undergraduate House of Representatives, the winners of the Honors Recognition Program were announced.

The Council extends their congratulations to Jonathan Gerry Gassett, Irfan Khan, Richard Brian Thoma, Kimberly Allison Gran, Abhishek M. Lodha, Kristin Bleau, Natasha Goguts, Stephen Popick, Christopher Morton Revell, Bobby Shuman, Jessica Kirk, Megan Kirk, Matthew Brendon Might, and Meredith Lynn Ware.

A special report was given by Karen Boyd, Senior Associate Dean of Students, on the issue of when student records can be released to parents.

Congress recently passed legislation that allows colleges to release student records to the parents of the student if he or she is under the age of 21 and has a drug or alcohol violation. The official Georgia Tech policy for parental notification is being discussed with students and parents before a proposal is formulated.

Administrators are looking for student feedback on this issue, so any comments should be directed to Dean Boyd.

In committee updates, the Athletic Services Committee is still working on revamping Peters Parking deck.

In response to the need for off-campus housing after this year's housing selection process, the Planning and Development Committee has created a bulletin board at

sga.gatech.edu/housing, where students can advertise available off-campus housing.

The Planning and Development Committee also recently spoke with a representative from kozmo.com, a website that will be launched on March 31.

Through this site, people all over Atlanta, including students, will be able to buy videos, DVD's, music, food, books, and magazines, and have their order delivered free of charge within 1 hour of the time the order was placed.

Videos can also be rented (with free delivery) at a cost of \$3.50 for 3 nights. To return rented videos, kozmo.com will pick them up at a cost of \$1, or they can be dropped off at a conveniently located drop

See UHR, page 4



By Dale Russell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

UHR president Tyler Brown speaks at this week's meeting. UHR announced the names of the winners of the Honors Recognition Program.

# GSS hears about health coverage, makes new appointments



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's meeting saw GSS members eagerly discuss health care coverage of graduate TA's and RA's.

By David Peters  
GSS Correspondent

The Senate this week heard a report from Dr. Charles Liotta, the Vice-Provost of Research and Dean of Graduate Studies and Graduate Student Senate Advisor, on the subject of health insurance coverage for graduate research assistants and graduate teaching assistants. Liotta announced that the Chancellor's Office will pay for the health insurance coverage starting this Fall semester. The percentage of the premiums that the Chancellor's Office would pay starting in Fall is currently undetermined.

The following Fall the Chancellor's Office will cover 75% of GRA and GTA premiums. Graduate Stu-

dent Government has been working on this issue for two years with Dr. Liotta. As a result of the actions of Dr. Liotta and Georgia Tech, the Chancellor's Office is now going to offer this coverage to graduate assistants throughout the University System of Georgia.

The Senate applauded Dr. Liotta for his efforts to make this project reach fruition.

The Senate also passed several allocation bills. An allocation to bring the group Rockapella to the Ferst Center for the Arts passed. Rockapella is an acappella group and will perform with acappella groups from Wake Forest and Tech on April 14.

The Georgia Tech Wrestling Team was allocated money for trav-

el and entry fees for a tournament.

The Georgia Tech Culture Fest was given money to run their annual event. Funding was granted for the Performance night where performances from different cultural groups will perform, the International Food Fair where for a small fee students may sample foods from around the world, and advertising for the events.

The Senate granted a charter to the Minority Recruitment Team, a student group that will encourage the recruitment of minorities to Georgia Tech.

Finally Brian Simmons-Lamb was appointed as an INTA senator and Teresa DiGenova as a EnvE senator to fill vacancies in the senate.

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writers ▼ photographers ▼  
pizza-eaters ▼ editors ▼ people who like  
to cut things ▼ those who like to paste ▼  
movie critics ▼ video game players ▼  
sports enthusiasts ▼ layout designers ▼  
artists ▼ theater-goers ▼ engineers ▼  
architects ▼ greeks ▼ undergrads ▼  
grads ▼ free-thinkers ▼ and all  
dedicated, creative types

UHR

from page 3

box. Boxes will hopefully be located at the Student Center and the Kroger on Howell Mill.

Kozmo.com is currently looking for deliverers. Anyone who is interested can contact P. Garrett at either pgarrett@kozmo.com, or 404-925-0658.

A resolution was passed in the House that fully supports the move of the bookstore from its current location to a new location on Fifth Street.

A charter was granted to the Minority Recruitment Team, an organization that actively recruits minorities to Tech's campus before they are admitted.

An allocation was passed to fund an a capella concert at the Ferst Center, which will feature the group Rockapella. The concert will take place on Friday, April 14. Student tickets will be \$15, and non-student tickets will be \$25.

Court

from page 1

he said.

Organizations defending student fees celebrated the reversal Wednesday.

Michael Adams, associate director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project called the decision a "great victory" for students and student groups.

"This is especially important for lesbian and gay groups because they have been the targets for organized efforts by right wing groups attempting to de-fund them," he said.

Adams said the case emerged out of a well-organized legal effort by groups including the Alliance Defense Fund and conservative Christian organizations that tried to discourage participation.

The Student Press Law Center filed a friend-of-the-court brief outlining the potential impact on student media. Mark Goodman, of the SPLC said that the very nature of

student media's political or ideological expression made them easy targets for segregated funding.

"If the court tolerated a system where students could get funding back because they objected the content, many student papers would cease to exist," he said. "This ruling reinforces the notion that student government cannot use the content of a student publication as justification for punishing them by cutting funding."

The SPLC receives complaints from papers whose fees are threatened when a student complains their content is objectionable.

This decision makes it clear student newspapers have the right to express freely without infringing on others constitutional rights, Goodman said.

Any student organization could have been affected if any student had complained, he said.

Chinese Student Association helps improve Maddox Park

By Peter Tsai  
Special to the 'Nique

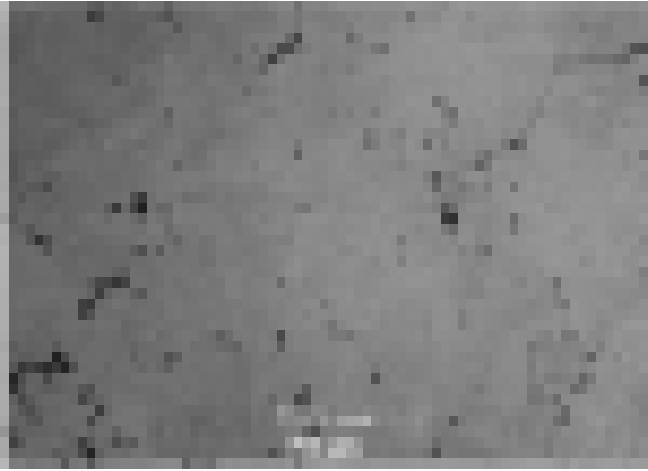
On Saturday, March 25, the Chinese Student Association of Georgia Tech will renovate and beautify Maddox Park, an inner city public park about 5 minutes driving from Tech campus. Volunteers will paint, weed, and clean in the name of giving back to the community so that the locals and Tech students may better enjoy the facilities.

The CSA Park Pride event will run from 7:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. and is a goodwill project open to all in the Tech Community. After the park cleanup is completed, all volunteers will be

provided with a free T-shirt and a free lunch.

Additionally, there will be softball and basketball games for all to enjoy.

The Chinese Student Association has been active presence on campus for more than 50 years. The basic philosophy of CSA is to increase cultural understanding at Georgia Tech and to help build and promote the Chinese community. Those interested in the CSA Park Pride event on March 25 or other aspects of CSA should contact the CSA President, Peter Tsai, at gte280i@prism.gatech.edu or visit the CSA website at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/csa



Join the Production Staff.

I'll explain this to you.

Join all the fun.

You'll love it!

Tuesdays 7 p.m.



# News briefs

## Parental notification for alcohol violations?

There will be an open forum Monday, March 27 at 3 p.m. in lecture hall room 117 of the Student Services Building. Everyone present will have an opportunity to give feedback concerning parental notification when students have violated the Institute's Alcohol and Drug Policy.

## Team places in World Programming Competition

For the second straight year, the Georgia Tech Programming Team are World Champions at the IBM Visual Age for Java Challenge, held as part of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, March 15-19 in Orlando, Florida. The goal of the challenge was to write the best version of Mastermind in 2 hours. Georgia Tech's submission can be viewed at <http://www.prism.gatech.edu/~gt5734a/mastermind.html>. In the World Finals of the programming contest, the Georgia Tech team placed 22nd out of an original field of 2459 teams from 69 countries, and 7th among teams from the United States. Team members are Vu Pham, David Minnen, and Jeff Collins. The coach is Kalyan Perumalla. Anyone interested in joining next year's team should e-mail [vupham@cc.gatech.edu](mailto:vupham@cc.gatech.edu) for more information.

## Burdell's Best Awards

Sponsored by the Presidents' Council, Burdell's Best Awards recognize the very best Georgia Tech student organizations have to offer. Those organizations that have shown outstanding leadership, service, motivation, and achievement on campus and in the surrounding community are encouraged to apply for this honor and recognition of their efforts. Organizations may apply in the following categories: Most Improved Organization, Best New Organization, Most Organizational Spirit, Best On-going Service Project, Best Short-term Service Project, Best Activity, Best Joint Activity, Outstanding Campus Impact, Best Internet Presence, Best Fundraising Project, and Outstanding Organization Advisor. Applications are available in Student Services Room 141 and are due Friday, March 31.

## Vote for SGA officers

Students can vote for SGA officers until 5 p.m. today on the elections website at [www.elections.gatech.edu](http://www.elections.gatech.edu). The results will be published in the March 31 issue of the *Technique*.

## Announcements? e-mail [news@technique](mailto:news@technique)

# Culture Fest supports diversity

By Alex Salazar  
*News Staff*

Tech students will have an opportunity to appreciate diversity on campus next month through Culture Fest, an annual event that celebrates culture in all its aspects. The Fest begins the week of the April 3 and invites students and organizations representing every corner of the Earth to get together and show the rest of the world what their own particular cultural treasures are. This is not a course in foreign cultures. CultureFest is people bringing a little piece of their life to show us: dresses, dances, dishes, everything that makes us diverse is represented. The event is entirely put together and organized by volunteering students, who come for reasons are varied as their backgrounds. Some come because they find this to be a worthwhile occupation. Others because they are fascinated by diversity and want opportunities to meet as many different people as possible.

In fact, Dorothy Pang, who is on the Display Committee, says that "I like to get involved in campus events; especially ones involving diversity." This is a weeklong celebration of the cultures of the world, and has many interesting events dispersed along the way, from the Food Fest to the Talent Show. The Food Fest promises in itself to be a wonder, with food from, in no particular order, India, Arab countries, Bangladesh, Greece, Pakistan, Turkey, Thailand, Iran, Indonesia and Latin America, distributed in 25 different dishes creating a real palace for the palate. Caribbean music will complete the Food Fest atmosphere. At \$4 per person for unlimited servings, it even comes at a decent price. The next stop along the line is that of the Display in the Student Center. Here, each organization will display various object d'art, which will be especially representative of their particular country of origin. Along with these unusual objects will be found more mundane maps and T-shirts. However, be prepared

to receive an explosion of color, because here "all the nationalities get together and display their colors," as Pang puts it. A soccer tournament will be also organized, in which teams can enter and compete to see who the best soccer players are. This will be spread out over two days, and will be held on the SAC fields. While international films will be shown in the student center throughout the week, the culminating point of the event will be the talent show on Sunday, April 9. Here, for over two hours, some of the most talented yet most representative of artists here at Tech will be performing songs, dances, and music from their native countries, each bringing the depth of experience to their performance. Those involved in preparation hope for a success. Ancil Marshall, a student originally from Trinidad who serves on the Food Committee confidently says: "I think this is going to be a huge success. The committees have been meeting for four months, and preparation for some people started back in October."

Update Important Dates	
Parking registration opens: April 17	<u>Class Registration</u>
Last Day of Classes: April 28	Summer: March 22 through April 4
Final exams: May 1 through May 5	Fall: April 12 through April 25
Commencement: May 6	Fall term starts: August 21
Summer term starts: May 15	Summer term exams: July 29 - Aug. 2
	Summer holidays: May 29, July 4

good for  
some free  
pizza.

bring this coupon to room 137 of the student services building (with some tip money) and a willingness to play with blue pens, knives, and wax.  
Tuesday at 7.

lots of pizza!

# New York University graduate students fight to unionize

By Keith Goldberg  
*Washington Square News*

(U-WIRE) New York U. — The New York University Graduate Students Organizing Committee unveiled a powerful ally in their fight to unionize at a meeting at Judson Memorial Church Monday night.

AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney, the event’s keynotespeaker, pledged his organization’s support of GSOC as it battles the University over whether graduate student teaching assistants have the right to form a union and gain collectively bargain with the University.

“The responsibility is on all of us to raise the level of focus and not to let this [issue] go unchallenged,” Sweeney told an audience of more than 50 community leaders, labor officials, GSOC members and local politicians that included City Councilwoman Christine Quinn.

“They [graduate students] need all the support we can give them,” he continued.

Sweeney pointed out that NYU,

like many other academic institutions, is heavily endowed, and therefore, has the means to accommodate the demands of GSOC. However, it continues to strongly resist the movement to organize.

“NYU has the ability to resolve these issues,” he said. “All they’re [graduate workers] looking for is dignity and respect, and they’re entitled to that.”

Julie Kushner, the sub-regional director of Region 9A of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the meeting’s moderator, said Sweeney’s appearance sends a message to both sides of the conflict that GSOC and the UAW mean business.

“It’s [Sweeney’s appearance] very significant,” Kushner said. “It’s really important that the University understands that this case is high-profile, and it’s very important that graduate students realize that they are part of the labor movement.”

While Sweeney may have been the highest-profile figure in attendance, the most compelling figures were three graduate assistants who

spoke of their personal hardships due to low compensation for their hours spent.

One example is Michael Gasper, a doctoral candidate in Middle East Studies and History who is a teaching assistant in the Morse Academic Plan’s World Cultures: Muslim Spain course, estimated that he spends three to four days a week performing class-related work, yet is only paid \$666.67 every two weeks, barely enough to cover his rent, utility bills and food.

In addition, he couldn’t afford to buy medication for a skin infection he contracted while studying in Egypt because his NYU health insurance plan’s only covers \$500 worth of medicine.

“I have nothing against the University, I’m just for graduate students,” Gasper said. “You get better results when you stick together.”

Laura Tanenbaum, a teaching assistant in the Expository Writing Program who lectures two writing workshop classes and holds two office hour sessions, said undergradu-

ate students need to be made more aware of the working conditions of graduate workers.

“Do students think about how much money we make?” she said. “They should know who’s being paid to teach them.”

Kushner said that undergraduates realize the importance of their graduate teachers.

“Undergraduates understand that teachers are the core of the University,” she said. “They value the work of graduate assistants.”

One of the unionization battle’s central issues is whether teaching is simply part of the graduate student’s educational experience.

Gasper admitted that his teaching job and studies are related, but doesn’t believe that unionization would compromise his education.

“To say that it’s [teaching] not part of training is absurd,” he said. “But even if you want to call us apprentices, there are examples of apprentices who are unionizing. We’re students and workers. Someone’s teaching those students.”

“There is no contradiction between learning on the job and also being considered a worker,” Kushner added. “There is no conflict between the two statuses.”

NYU chose not to recognize GSOC as a union, and considers graduate teaching assistance as apprentices who previously have not been allowed by the National Labor Relations Board to unionize. GSOC has taken its fight to the NLRB, and is awaiting a decision as to whether it must be recognized as a union by NYU.

The recurring theme throughout the meeting was the “dignity” and “respect” Sweeney spoke of. And those two terms were especially important to the graduate students who told their stories.

“We shouldn’t have to beg for a living wage,” said Kimberley Johnson, a graduate student in American Studies.

“The work we do should be respected and we should be respected. Going around with your hand outstretched is not a way to live.”

mar

- essays
- poetry
- art
- conspiracy theories
- rants on life in general

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STUDENT  
PUBLICATIONS

Student Services Building, Room 137