

In the year since the Local's elections and the last GEO elections the culture of our shop and our leadership has been shifting for the good. Over the past year GEO has taken stands on issues that weren't resolved under the old leadership. Most importantly GEO did so by organizing, activating and receiving input from the rank and file membership. In addition to engaging in struggles that directly affect our members, such as late pay and bargaining, GEO has been getting involved with networks of graduate workers across the country to share strategies for local struggles as well as discussing strategies in our struggle to protect higher education.

This last year we have had many successes in building a more democratic and active union, however, we still have a lot of work to do. The upcoming year, because of bargaining, be a serious test of how well we have and can organize within GEO. In the short run I think we need to continue doing walkthroughs and organizing departmental and school level open forums, especially in the departments and schools that do not have steward representation. Furthermore, I would like to see more organizing trainings for our members especially for the stewards. In the longer run I would like to see GEO push for the development of a network of departmental Graduate student organizations. GSOs create spaces for graduate students to come together and discuss the issues that they are facing and organize around them.

My vision for GEO is a union that is well organized and where the membership is steering our union. This past year we have made a huge step in that direction. As co-chair I would continue to work and organize to achieve that goal. My strategies for the next year would be to continue and amp up face to face organizing, keep building our stewards network and work to build departmental institutions for empowering graduate workers.