

CGE Members Testify on Fees to Oregon Legislature

On March 6th, nine CGE members joined Rob Wagner, AFT-OR's Director of Legislative Affairs, and three members of UO's GTFF to testify in front of the Oregon House Committee on Education in support of HB 2508, which would waive student fees for all graduate employees in the Oregon University System. The testimony was a great success and drew concern over the burden of student fees from nearly the entire committee.

CGE members spoke of the impact of fees on graduate employees at OSU and related a number of compelling personal stories about fees. By the end of the hearing, the committee unanimously recognized that student fees are a big problem for grad employees in Oregon and seemed ready to begin working to find a solution to this problem. In that, CGE's goals for this hearing were achieved, and the way was paved for CGE to continue working with the state legislature to eliminate fees for grad employees in Oregon. For those who are interested, audio for the hearing is available on the website www.cge6069.org.

Many thanks and congratulations to all of the CGE members who attended and testified at the hearing. Your participation helped CGE take one step more towards ending the burden of student fees for grad employees at OSU.



April Events

			1 <small>April Fool's Day</small>	2 <small>Building Rep Meeting 5PM, Woodstock's</small>	3	4
5 <small>Palm Sunday</small>	6	7	8 <small>PacificSource Benefit Meeting 4PM, Gilfillan</small>	9 <small>Passover begins</small>	10 <small>Good Friday</small>	11
12 <small>Easter Sunday</small>	13	14	15	16	17 <small>AFT-OR Convention Sunriver, OR</small>	18
19 <small>AFT-OR Convention</small>	20	21	22 <small>Earth Day</small>	23 <small>GMM 5:30 PM, Chintimini Senior Center</small>	24 <small>Arbor Day</small>	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Other Events

Weekly Executive Council Meetings
Tuesdays, 4 PM Westminster House

Association of Graduate Employee Locals
Spring Conference
June 4-7, 2009
UO Campus

\$34 Grievance Arbitration Hearing
July 16-17, 2009

Understanding your PacificSource Insurance Benefits

Yearly Deductible	\$200 per person
Yearly and Lifetime Plan Max	\$100,000 per year/ \$250,000 Lifetime
Yearly Out of Pocket Max	\$1,000 Out of Pocket
Office Visits, Out Patient Labs and Xrays, Hospital Room and Board, Surgeon, Anesthesia, Physical Therapy, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Pregnancy and Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy	90% @ Preferred Providers, subject to yearly deductible
Emergency Room	50% co-pay then 90% @ Preferred Providers, subject to yearly deductible
Prescription Drugs	\$15 co-pay for generic, \$25 co-pay for preferred, \$35 co-pay for non-preferred drugs
Eye Exam and Frames, Contacts instead of frames	100% Participating Providers, \$75 frames, \$131 contacts

PacificSource plan: <http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/graduate-assistant-insurance-plan>

PACIFICSOURCE BENEFIT MEETING

**Wednesday, April 8, 2009
4:00 – 5:15pm
GILFILLAN AUDITORIUM**

The Student Insurance Office and PacificSource are holding an informational meeting for all graduate research and teaching assistants. A representative from PacificSource will give a brief overview of the graduate insurance plan and will be available to answer questions. Benefit packets will be handed out and enrollment forms can be completed and turned in.

All Spring forms for must be turned in by April 30th.

Please call or email Erin Palmer in the Student Insurance Office if you have any questions or concerns.
(541) 737-7568 or erin.palmer@oregonstate.edu

Other Membership Benefits

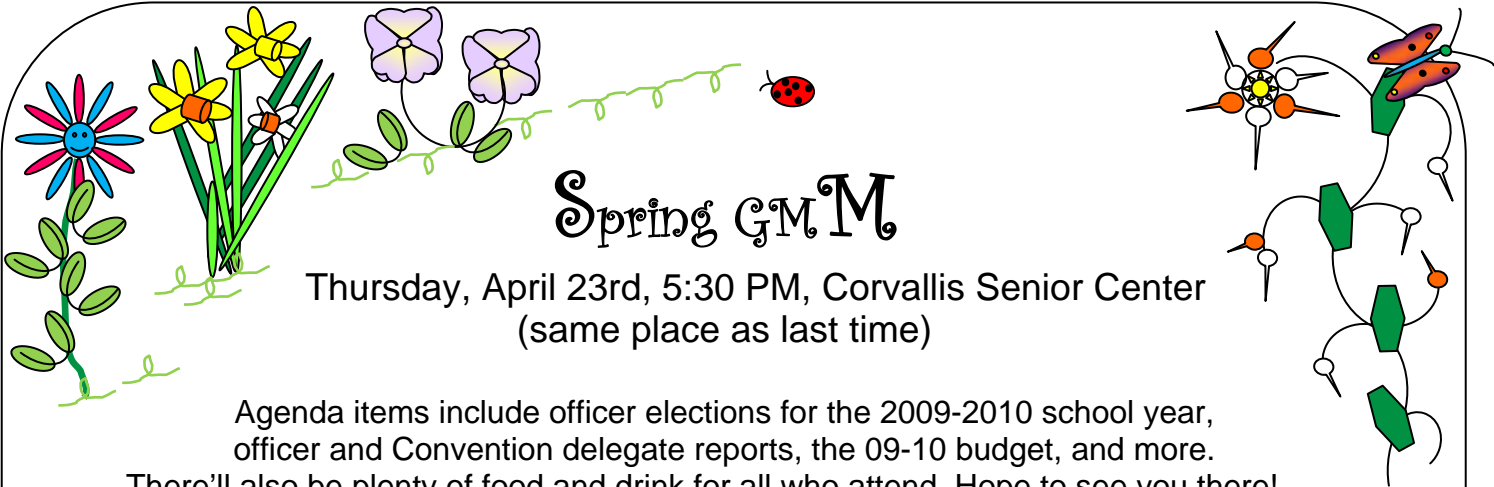
AFT Member Cards & Card Replacement

All CGE members should be mailed AFT member card shortly after joining. These cards get members access to the additional member benefits offered by AFT and AFT-Oregon. Long-time members should have received cards in 2008. For a new AFT card, contact AFT-OR Benefits Rep. Susan Miller, 503-595-3880 or SusanM@aft-oregon.org.



Member Use of CGE Resources

The Union feels that members should be granted reasonable use of all office equipment and materials paid for by the membership. This includes: Office computers, particularly the computer designated for member use; scanner and fax services; 100 uses of the copy machine per member per month for copying and/or printing; and all other office supplies. Members can also rent the CGE projector with the understanding that the CGE member who signs for the rental is responsible for the cost of replacement or repair if necessary. Basically, you own it, so you can use it if you need it. Letting us know in advance if you want to stop by is helpful in insuring that the office is open.



Spring GMM

Thursday, April 23rd, 5:30 PM, Corvallis Senior Center
(same place as last time)

Agenda items include officer elections for the 2009-2010 school year, officer and Convention delegate reports, the 09-10 budget, and more. There'll also be plenty of food and drink for all who attend. Hope to see you there!

If you want to be an officer next semester, come to the GMM. If you can't make the GMM, call the office for an absentee nomination.

NEW!!!

Suggestion Box:



http://cge6069.org/contact/suggestion_box

The suggestion box is a new feature available on the CGE website that allows graduate employees to make anonymous suggestions to the CGE.

Spring Membership Drive and Bargaining Survey

For this term's membership drive, CGE has decided to take a new approach. Instead of making hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of office visits, CGE is organizing departmental meetings. The main goals of these meetings will be to educate graduate employees about the role CGE plays in bargaining and to receive input from member and non-member grads about what goals CGE should pursue in next year's bargaining. CGE members interested in helping set up departmental meetings can contact Staff Organizer Dennis Dugan at organizer@cge6069.org

Representatives Meeting



There will be a Building Representatives meeting on Thursday, April 2nd. It will be held in the back room of Woodstock's Pizza. If you are a Building Rep and can't make the meeting, please call the office to find out what you miss, or, you can send a friend to fill in your place. All CGE members interested in being more active in the union are welcome!

Worrying about Workload

With the possibility of reduced funding for the university, one thing CGE is starting to pay attention to is the amount of work required per assistantship. It is possible that things like class sizes or job duties will increase without a commensurate increase in pay or FTE. This is equivalent to a factory worker being told to produce more in the same amount of time and for no more pay – in other words, it's potentially very unfair. It is also a potential violation of the contract between CGE and OSU.

Knowing that, CGE will be examining a variety of ways to track both actual workload and assigned workload over time to make sure more of the burden isn't being unfairly dumped on grads. If anyone is interested in helping with this or has an example of this kind of thing happening, please contact the office at unite@cge6069.org or 541-757-7141.

Organizing Local Benefits

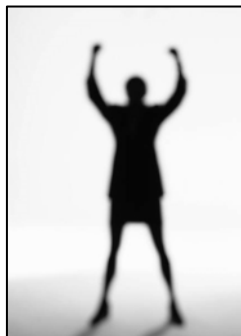
CGE Organizing VP Jim Duncan is looking to create some local member benefits starting this spring – you know, discounts on food, drink or other products and services frequently used by grads that would be available to any CGE member. Anyone interested in helping Jim set this up should contact him at vp_organizing@cge6069.org.

In the News

2009 AFT-Oregon Convention Delegates

They are:

Ashley Bromley, GEO
Mark T. Ford, GEO
John Peacock, English
B.J. Walker, GEO
Rama Goud, MIME
Jim Duncan, GEO
Rob Hess, EECS
John Osborne, COAS



The AFT-Oregon annual Convention will be April 17-19th in Sunriver, Oregon. AFT locals from all over the state send delegates to set the priorities of the state federation for the following year. It's a great chance to get to know other unionists, learn how the state federation functions (and how being part of it helps CGE), and to have a good time.

Budget Committee

In July, CGE will enter its first full year of financial independence and fair-share. A Budget Committee of members has been formed to develop the 2009-2010 budget and recommend it to the current officers, future officers and the membership. The committee will be crafting a budget early this term. In the future, this will be a yearly event, so if you are interested in the numbers or seeing how the union spends dues money, keep an ear out for news on this front.

Summer Health Insurance

After the recent flurry of activity at the end of last term, things appear to have calmed a bit on the summer health insurance front. Unfortunately, CGE was unable to get OSU's HR department to agree to extend the deadline. However, we will continue to work on improving the process so this does not happen again next year.

Meeting with President Ed Ray

On March 17th, Allison Weinsteiger, Rob Hess, Jay Zarnetske, and John Osborne met with President Ray, HR Director Jacque Rudolph, Grad School Dean Sally Francis and Provost Sabah Randhawa. The goal of the periodic meeting is to keep a working relationship between CGE and the Administration and enhance productivity through communication.

CGE and the Administration share many of the same goals: access to affordable health insurance for grad employees and fellows, classification of post docs, and financial stability during these tough economic times.

Organizer Dennis Helps GEO-UIC

Dennis worked in Chicago during "GEO Week" – it was their membership drive with a focus on the upcoming bargaining. Goals included increasing membership, turning people out to an anti-budget cut event, gathering data, completing bargaining surveys and inviting people to the GEO Bargaining Kick-off Party. Over 60 new membership cards were collected!

CGE Grad Guide

Now that the weather's getting better and grads might be thinking about the outside world again (or simply going stir-crazy), we thought we'd remind everyone that CGE members put together a guide to Oregon for new graduates. Check it out, tell your friends (ask your department to link to it), and, if you happen to meet some prospective students this spring, tell them about it as well!

http://cge6069.org/resources/cge_grad_guide_to_c_orvallis

Academic Labor Readings

For anyone who is interested in learning about the intersection of the labor movement and academia, CGE has put together a short reading list that can be found here: http://cge6069.org/resources/readings_on_academi_c_labor

Members of the Month:

Andres Vaughan
Ben Hershberg
B.J. Walker
Brian Dietel
Clare Elliott
Chris Knutson
John Osborne
Jonathan Peacock
Mary Beth Oshnack
Rob Hess
Skyler Weaver



Office Hours for the Spring Term:
Monday – Thursday, 10 am to 5 pm.

Contact CGE by phone or email to answer
any of your questions!

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<http://cge6069.org/>