

Dear fellow graduate student workers,

My name is Prachi Goyal and I am a second year Labor Studies student and first year WGSS certificate candidate. I would be honored to serve graduate student workers as co-chair for the Graduate Employee Organization.

I am a committed labor rights and social justice activist and have worked for unions and labor organizations for more than three years. I have organized full-time for the United Food and Commercial Workers in Springfield, worked as a researcher for Community Labor United in Boston, and interned for Farmworker Legal Services in Michigan. As your co-chair, I would make use of these experiences to make our union the best that it can be for us, the members.

Under the Trump administration, specific efforts are necessary within the union and on campus. As a union with a large community of international students, we must fight to have an immigration lawyer on staff at the Student Legal Services Office. We must stand in solidarity with international students and support their needs by building action around the causes that affect them. International students make up our union and our community, and we must make it a priority to stand with them.

We must build strength in departments with low membership to strengthen and sustain our membership. Decisions in cases like Janus, which affect not only our union, but all public sector unions, require us to build not only a strong union, but a strong community. Creating connections and opening our doors through more outreach, going to specific departments to be part of conversations are key to engaging graduate students. This is incredibly important because departments with low membership are at great risk of unfair labor conditions. As co-chair, I would make an effort to be engaged with these departments.

Part of the work of building our membership is fostering stronger bonds with our stewards by creating paths of open communication. A strong steward's network is how we know what members need and what we can do for them. Stewards are community leaders in their departments and building these relationships will be a priority for me as co-chair.

I hope you Go for Goyal in this election! If anyone has any questions for me, I would love to answer them through facebook. My page is linked below, feel free to reach publicly, or by direct message.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2200773363268990/>

In Solidarity,

Prachi Goyal

