

# ADJUNCT PROJECT!

A RESOURCE FOR GRADUATE CENTER WORKERS AND ADJUNCTS

## WHO WE ARE

### COORDINATOR FOR LABOR RELATIONS:

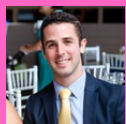
GIACOMO BIANCHINO (HE/HIM)

GIACOMO IS A SIXTH-YEAR DOCTORAL CANDIDATE IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND A DELEGATE TO THE PSC



### COORDINATOR FOR ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING:

JUSTIN BEAUCHAMP (THEY/ANY)



JUSTIN IS A FIFTH-YEAR DOCTORAL STUDENT IN SOCIOLOGY AND AN ADJUNCT LECTURER AT CCNY

### COORDINATOR FOR ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION:

NIKITA MEGHANI (SHE/HER)

NIKITA IS A SECOND-YEAR DOCTORAL STUDENT IN MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY. SHE IS A GRADUATE ASSISTANT AT HUNTER COLLEGE



## Where to find us:

**Twitter:** @GCAdjuncts

**Insta:** gcadjuncts

**Website:** <https://cunyadjunctproject.org>

**Email:** [adjunctproject@cunydisc.org](mailto:adjunctproject@cunydisc.org)

## What is the Adjunct Project?

The Adjunct Project is an affiliate organization of the Doctoral and Graduate Student Council (DGSC). Our job is to represent the interests of Graduate Student Workers who are employed by CUNY to do adjunct, or casual, work. We work closely with the Graduate Center chapter of the PSC to keep workers updated about things like contract bargaining, their rights at work and news from the broader labor struggle. Our goals this semester are:

1. Keeping the GC's union membership informed of bargaining updates.
2. Educating GC PSC members about the language of contract negotiation, and the relevance of individual contract demands to their own conditions.
3. Providing resources to help graduate workers navigate CUNY's Daedalean labor landscape.
4. Event planning and solidarity building to provide programming and opportunities for graduate student workers to gather and build community.

Below, you will find our first updates about the year of struggles ahead!

## Bargaining Update

The PSC has now met four times with management. In their first meeting on June 27, the bargaining proposals of the PSC were laid out. In the second meeting on June 29, the PSC pointed out the bad faith of negotiating based on budgetary concerns, given that budgeting is political and that the PSC has already helped to raise money for CUNY in the past budgetary cycles. They also laid out some ground rules for negotiation. In the third meeting on July 10, the PSC also specified its salary demands, which will include “Across-the-board annual raises for each member of the bargaining unit, starting with 8% in each year for 2023 and 2024, followed by 4% in each year for 2025-2027.”

In the most recent meeting, on August 6th CUNY announced its own bargaining platform. It is a union-busting, anti-worker platform, expanding the precarity of the workforce while removing opportunities for promotion. They also want to scrap retroactive pay- screwing us individually out of a significant amount of money. They believe that things like diversity and equity are irrelevant, because they already exist at CUNY. Not sure which CUNY they’re talking about- certainly not the one we know.

PSC members who do not sit on the bargaining team were invited to be present at these meetings. Around 40 rank-and-file members have been present at each session. They have attended training meetings beforehand to help accustom them to the kinds of discipline required of a bargaining team. Our own chapter chair, Zoe Hu, spoke at the last meeting about the effects of austerity on Graduate Student Workers. This is not quite the open bargaining that many members would like (the members are there as observers), but it is a positive step towards a more democratic union. If you want to be included in one of these meetings, you can sign up for an orientation on the PSC Website.

## Multi-Year Appointment Pilot Program Threat

CUNY administration sent out a guidance to college officials on July 5, claiming to have unilaterally discontinued the pilot program for multi-year appointments for teaching adjuncts “effective immediately.” This program allows for people who have taught for ten consecutive semesters in the same department to be considered for a three-year appointment. The contract makes clear that the pilot program, formalized in Appendix E of the PSC-CUNY contract, continues through the end of the 2023-24 academic year. The administration has not met its obligation to complete discussion of potential modifications to the program before determining next steps. The union’s position is that CUNY must adhere to the contract and that departments should honor the multi-year appointments currently in effect.

## Attack on the Commons

On the 21st of August, Graduate Center President Robin Garrell sent out an email under the title “Dining Commons, Food Pantry and Food Services Update.” In this email she announced that the Dining Commons, on level 8 of the GC building, would be closed until October, and that the search for a new vendor for our cafeteria was still continuing “apace.” What she didn’t mention was the way that both of these “updates” are betrayals of her own word as president, and of the community we have been building since Spring. Garrell has backflipped on having food and pantry services ready by the start of Fall, and has now kicked us out of our own space for a whole month, She's also given all of the credit to administration for the gains made by student activism and collaboration.

In a statement to the GC Community, Chapter Chair Zoe Hu said: "Until the new pantry is established, Reclaim the Commons will continue to assist those struggling with food insecurity by re-establishing its old pantry in a new location (the Foundation Lounge on the ground floor). We will keep it running until the formal one opens. If you would like to join our effort, email us at [gcreclaimthecommons@gmail.com](mailto:gcreclaimthecommons@gmail.com) or donate funds by Venmo to @Zoe-Hu-1 (a record of receipts and Venmo use can be found [here](#)). Help us work towards a People’s CUNY!"