

# GRADUATE CENTER STUDENT STRIKE UPDATE

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At 5PM Thursday, April 18, the following demands were reconfirmed. The continued occupation of the Graduate Center was also reconfirmed by an overwhelming majority. **The negotiation process has begun with Graduate Center administrators.**

The Graduate Students' continued takeover is in solidarity with the student strikes at the other CUNY campuses

## These are our demands by consensus:

1. We insist that Chancellor Reynolds meet with the delegated representatives of the strike committees from all CUNY campuses.
2. Statements by our Graduate Center administration that they will not bring police or additional outside security forces onto our campus, and a statement opposing the use of police to end occupations on other CUNY campuses.
3. The administration present a plan showing what they are going to immediately do to escalate pressure on the legislature to stop the budget cuts, proposed tuition hikes, proposed termination of 800 adjunct position, and the decrease in state financial aid. This plan should be presented at an open forum of students and administrators at the Graduate Center and in a public statement to the press.
4. The agreement reached between the PSC and CUNY which specifies that CUNY Graduate Center students be given priority over other graduate students in all adjunct hirings should be enforced.
5. Mina Rees Library hours be substantially extended, especially evening and weekend hours. The budget of the library be increased sufficiently to cover the expenses of book and journal purchases, and to support those services necessary for our research needs.
6. The Graduate Center administration, and each program, actively recruit students and faculty, particularly from within the CUNY system to reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the City of New York. Sufficient support should be provided to ensure completion of degrees by students, and the accomplishment of tenure for faculty.
7. The Graduate Center administration, and each program, actively recruit students and faculty, particularly from within the CUNY system affirmatively in support of those of the working class, and to disallow discrimination of gender and sexual orientation.
8. Chancellor Reynolds should initiate a plan showing what she is going to do to escalate pressure on the legislature to stop the budget cuts, proposed tuition hikes, proposed termination of adjunct positions, and the decrease in financial aid.
9. Chancellor Reynolds should rescind the raising of minimum high school requirements for entering college students, since at this time, high schools are incapable of complying with her expectations, and thereby fewer public school students will be able to obtain a college education.
10. Governor Mario Cuomo should rescind his proposed CUNY budget cuts, tuition hikes and cuts in financial aid. Instead he should expand the State budget for health and education.
11. End the freeze on new Ph.D. programs.
12. CUNY should return to a policy of free tuition.
13. The number of distinguished faculty lines in each Graduate Center department should be equally proportional to the number of students in each of those departments.
14. The CUNY administration should be responsible for negotiating pay for the contract workers who are unable to work due to the strike.
15. The appointment of Executive officers should be done by program Faculty, student, and staff committees.
16. **No disciplinary action against people involved in the Graduate Center takeover.**

- \* A **TEACH-IN** is scheduled for all at 1PM on Friday, April 19 in front of the Graduate Center.
- \* An **open forum** is scheduled outside the Graduate Center at 4PM on Friday, April 19.