

Private university grad student unionizing effort

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Why unionize?

Grad student working conditions are often the subject of jokes, laughably bad



Why unionize?

Grad students are vulnerable to harassment as powerless members of academic community

Why It's Harder For Grad Students To Report Sexual Harassment

They have even more to lose than undergrads who go public.

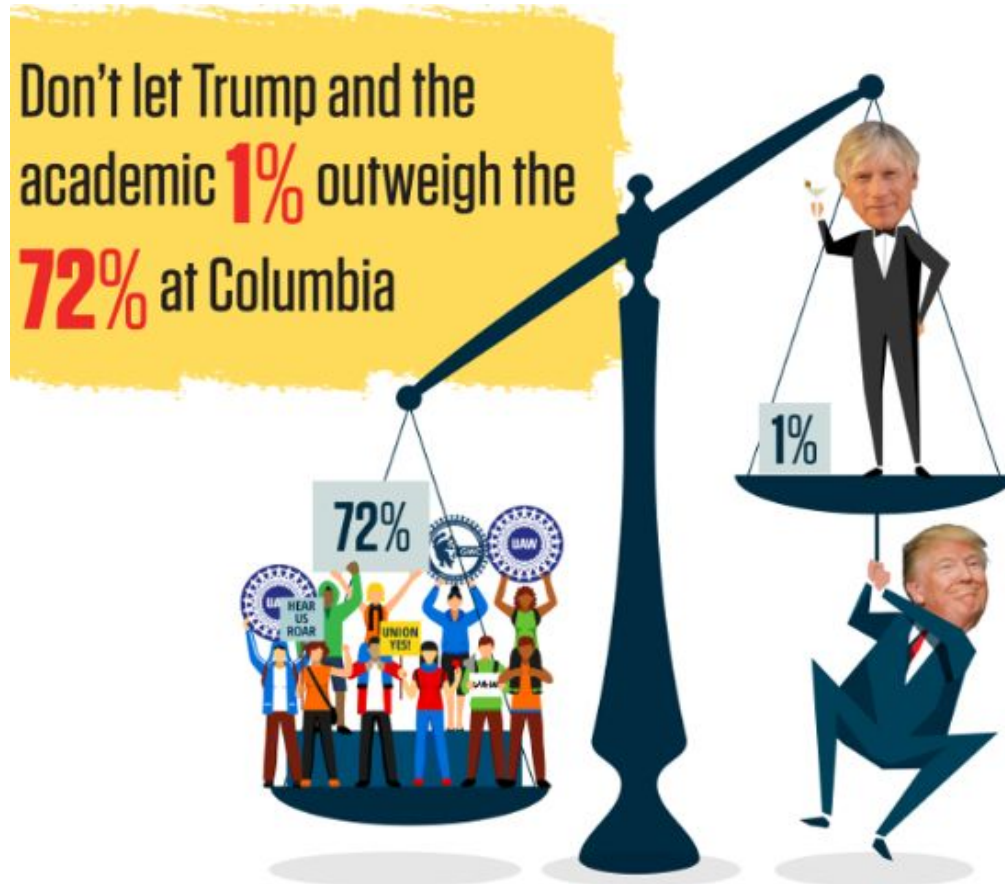
Prof accused of sexually harassing grad students in Antarctica

Worse Than It Seems

New study of harassment of graduate students by faculty members suggests that the problem is worse – both in level of offense and prevalence of repeat offenders – than many believe.

Why unionize?

Adequate pay and benefits shirked by administration, supposedly tradeoff for 'training'



Why unionize?

Unions as tool for collective action



Timeline

GSU organizing wins childcare stipend, increases in pay, and freezes in fees

May 2007
UChicago Graduate Students United begins organizing

May 2017
GSU files for election. University requests regional NLRB review to prevent election from happening

UChicago

Aug. 2017
Regional NLRB rules against UChicago and orders election

Sept. 2017
University files appeal to try to prevent or nullify the election

Oct. 2017
Grads vote to unionize with 70% in favor

Now:
Escalate?...!

Columbia

Aug. 2016
Brown decision overturned

Jan. 2017
Columbia appeals election, claims union interference

Jan. 2018
Provost claims they will appeal in federal court – can they?

Dec. 2016
Columbia students elect to unionize, 72% in favor

Through 2017...
Regional, then NLRB dismiss their objections; Certify union 1/2018

Now:
Escalate?...!

Under threat of unionization, most significant stipend increase in years

Despite anti-union campaign!

Meanwhile... 8 other private schools (inc. U Chicago) unionize!

Potential for SftP involvement

- Conference actions - pass resolutions?
- Showing solidarity locally
 - Mobilizing base for rallies
 - Adding pressure on administrators as other academic staff, especially faculty
- Articles emphasizing scientists as workers, the role of unions in conducting ethical science
 - Tie-in with MFS, like Healthcare for All?