

To: Melissa Mason, Co-Chair of GESO
Date: April 20, 2005

VIA EMAIL

Melissa

I'm writing to express my support and encouragement for GESO and the other organizations of graduate student employees, including GET-UP here at the University of Pennsylvania, in the important solidarity actions you're undertaking this week. I'm confident that eventually university administrations will come to understand and acknowledge that the principles of academic freedom and intellectual integrity on which our craft supposedly rests not only can accommodate, but actually require, that all members of the university community have the ability to express effectively and represent their interests and concerns in the university's affairs. I'm also confident that they will by and large reach that understanding only as a result of concerted, unrelenting effort on as broad a front as possible.

As a graduate teacher and advisor, my interest certainly lies with efforts to alleviate the financial and other insecurities that impinge on students' ability to complete their graduate programs. In addition, as you know, the struggle of graduate student employees reaches beyond the campus to assert the rights of all workers to organize and express themselves collectively, to secure the protection of neutral grievance procedures and access to adequate income and benefits. It is important that we stand against those forces that would deny those minimal protections to any workers, anywhere. I'm also confident that we can win.

In solidarity,

Adolph Reed, Jr., Professor
University of Pennsylvania
Political Science Department &

Interim National Councilmember, Labor Party