



bullsheet@denison.edu | denisonbullsheet.com | @DUBullsheet

The Bullsheet, a forum for news, humor, and community dialogue, is funded by DCGA, and is printed each day that classes are in session. Submissions must be sent before our editors shamble into the office for next day submission via e-mail to:bullsheet@denison.edu. Submissions herein solely reflect the opinions of the authors.

Edited last night by: James
Delivered this morning by: Ellie
vol. LXVII/ no. 114/April 9th, 2021

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE DENISON LABOR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Denison student workers are facing a labor crisis. Wages have remained achingly low for many years even as tuition costs continue to increase yearly by thousands of dollars. Many workers report working more hours than they are paid for, having few ways to get accountability for ineffective or abusive supervisors, hitting hurdles in finding and applying for jobs, difficulty understanding federal work-study programs, lackluster training, few professional development opportunities, and uneven hiring and firing policies.

Recently, a consciousness about the disappointing state of student labor has developed among concerned Denisonians. This sentiment is a long time coming. When students and support staff speak up about these issues, we are often shot down by the administration or given hollow promises for future change. We are delegated to endless and powerless committee meetings. This year alone, when some students individually expressed concerns to administration, one-time adjustments were made at the expense of meaningful structural change that would benefit all Denisonians, current and future.

As student workers, we carry the multiple responsibilities of a full-time course load and working to pay bills, on top of our other involvements. We keep campus functioning by processing mail, providing tours, mediating roommate conflicts and student conduct, tutoring one another, administrative work, interviewing prospective students, providing COVID tests, and assisting professors with teaching, among a myriad of other roles. Student employees are an indispensable, integral part of campus life. Why do we remain undervalued and under-respected?

Contrary to yesterday's emails from President Weinberg and VP Miller, our concerns do not solely lie in student wages: students face difficulty in finding student employment, navigating the complex federal work-study system, gaining accountability for ineffective or abusive supervisors, understanding unclear hiring and firing policies, enduring mid-semester layoffs, working unpaid hours, and no illness or mental health leave mechanisms. Yesterday's email from President Weinberg claims that "a team of students and administrators have been working on a plan all year." This isn't true. Detailed plans for an overhaul of student employment have not been communicated to students, including those sitting on employment committees. This list is not inclusive! If Denison Administration wishes to champion a strong, holistic understanding of student employment needs, they must listen.

Continued on the back...

We are discerning moral agents, autonomous thinkers, and active citizens. We are Denisonians: your roommates, your peers, your classmates. We are the denison Labor Organizing Committee (dLOC). We're composed of students who have been advocating for employment reform at Denison since October 2020. A lack of action over the last 8 months of meetings and unanswered questions has convinced us that a public campaign is necessary to achieve justice and equity for all student workers.

To Denison Administration: We wish to work together and be in open dialogue. However, as student workers directly affected by any employment policy changes, our collective voices must be included in this process. Transparent and accountable decision making must take place.

To Josh: thank you for your bravery in sharing your experiences of enduring unjust labor practices while working in Denison's support staff. To all other of Denison's amazing and hardworking Building Services Assistants, Facilities Services workers, Bon Appetit dining staff, and all undervalued and underpaid workers at Denison: we see you, appreciate you, and we stand in solidarity with you. Our grievances and desires for a stronger and more equitable working environment run parallel to yours. Without you, no students would eat or have running water, have trash collected or clean restrooms, or safe classrooms to learn in. We recognize the significant privileges that come with attending an expensive and elite college like Denison. We hope that our efforts to realize change can and will run alongside yours.

This week, our education campaign began. Let's begin talking to our friends about their experiences working on campus. Speak with your professors, your supervisors, and your advisors on what it means to be a worker. Share your stories. Discover issues and areas for improvement. Do research on the rights and responsibilities that come with work and employment. Brainstorm ideas on what a better future of student work will look like, and call for change. Let's get to work, folks. Keep an eye out for more work in the near future.

In solidarity,

Max Giarrusso '21, Nalani Wean '21, Michael Ball '22, Atticus Muller '22, and Isaiah Meadows '23, signing on behalf of dozens of other student workers in dLOC and across campus who wish to remain unnamed in concern of retaliation.

We are thankful for the support we have received from other Denison student workers, various faculty, Denison support staff, and recent alumni. If you would like to get involved, provide feedback, or express support, please connect with us @dlocdenison on Instagram or dlocdenison@gmail.com, or reach out to the individuals above.



Mii



Wii

Staff "forbidden slayer order" Box

- Charlie "single slice of cheese" Schweiger, Managing Editor
- James "the possible burger" Whitney, Junior Editor
- Jack "gallon of chipotle mayo" May, Junior Editor
- Betsy "grill scrapings" Wagner, Sophomore Editor
- Katie "zoloff" Kerrigan, Head Writer
- Elizabeth "morning pop-up" Arterberry, Senior Writer
- Maggie "black bile" Bell, Junior Writer
- Blythe "knuckle sandwich" Dahlem, Sophomore Writer
- Ellie "elk jerky" Schrader, Sophomore Writer
- William "The Funk" Kelsey, Sophomore Writer
- Emma "raw protein powder" Rutherford, Sophomore Writer

